BAREFOOT GEN

THE DAY AFTER

VOLUME TWO

Keiji Nakazawa

All New Translation

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ART SPIEGELMAN

A Note from the Author

Keiji Nakazawa

The atomic bomb exploded 600 meters above my hometown of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 at 8:15 a.m. I was a little over a kilometer away from the epicenter, standing at the back gate of Kanzaki Primary School, when I was hit by a terrible blast of wind and searing heat. I was six years old. I owe my life to the school's concrete wall. If I hadn't been standing in its shadow, I would have been burned to death instantly by the 5,000-degree heat flash. Instead, I found myself in a living hell, the details of which remain etched in my brain as if it happened yesterday.

My mother, Kimiyo, was eight months pregnant. She was on the second floor balcony of our house, had just finished hanging up the wash to dry, and was turning to go back inside when the bomb exploded. The blast blew the entire balcony, with my mother on it, into the alley behind our house. Miraculously, my mother survived without a scratch.

The blast blew our house flat. The second floor collapsed onto the first, trapping my father, my sister Eiko, and my brother Susumu under it. My brother had been sitting in the front doorway, playing with a toy ship. His head was caught under the rafter over the doorway. He frantically kicked his legs and cried out for my mother. My father, trapped inside the house, begged my mother to do something. My sister had been crushed by a rafter and killed instantly.

My mother frantically tried to lift the rafters off them, but she wasn't strong enough to do it by herself. She begged passersby to stop and help, but nobody would. In that atomic hell, people could only think of their own survival; they had no time for anyone else. My mother tried everything she could, but to no avail. Finally, in despair, she sat down in the doorway, clutching my crying brother and helplessly pushing at the rafter that was crushing him.

The fires that followed the blast soon reached our house. It was quickly enveloped in flame. My brother yelled that he was burning; my father kept begging my mother to get some help. My mother, half-mad with grief and desperation, sobbed that she would stay and die with them. But our next-door neighbor found my mother just in time and dragged her away.

For the rest of her days, my mother never forgot the sound of the voices of her husband and son, crying out for her to save them. The shock sent my mother into labor, and she gave birth to

a daughter by the side of the road that day. She named the baby Tomoko. But Tomoko died only four months later -- perhaps from malnutrition, perhaps from radiation sickness, we didn't know.

After escaping the flames near the school, I found my mother there by the roadside with her newborn baby. Together we sat and watched the scenes of hell unfolding around us.

My father had been a painter of lacquer work and traditional-style Japanese painting. He was also a member of an anti-war theater group that performed plays like Gorky's "The Lower Depths." Eventually the thought police arrested the entire troupe and put them in the Hiroshima Prefectural Prison. My father was held there for a year and a half. Even when I was a young child, my father constantly told me that Japan had been stupid and reckless to start the war.

Thanks, no doubt, to my father's influence, I enjoyed drawing from an early age. After the war I began reading Osamu Tezuka's comic magazine *Shin-Takarajima* (*New Treasure Island*); that had a huge impact on me. I began slavishly copying Tezuka's drawings and turned into a manga maniac. Hiroshima was an empty, burnt-out wasteland and we went hungry every day, but when I drew comics, I was happy and forgot everything else. I vowed early on to become a professional cartoonist when I grew up.

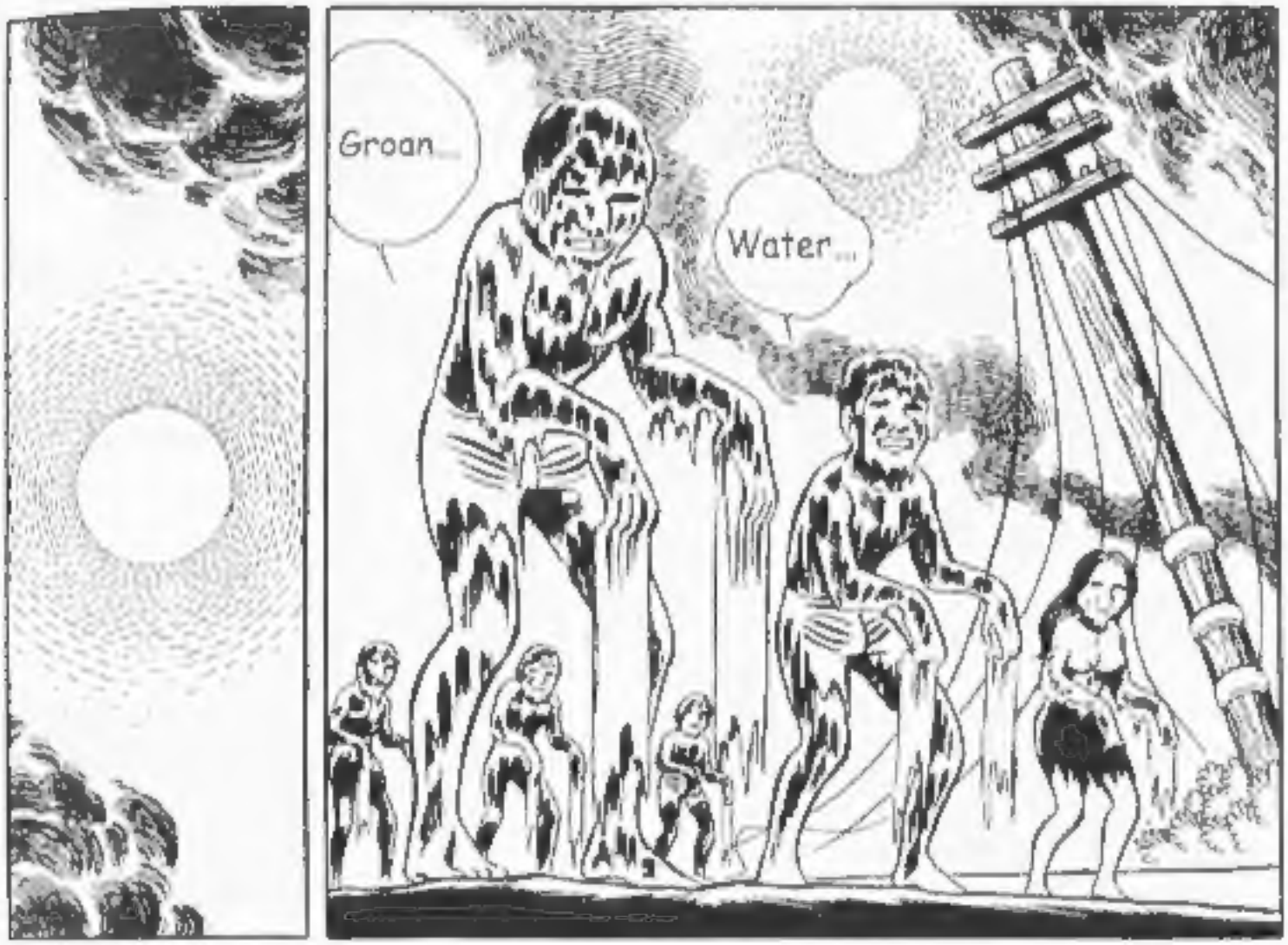
In 1961 I pursued my dream by moving to Tokyo. A year later I published my first cartoon serial in the manga monthly *Shonen Gaho* (*Boys' Pictorial*). From then on I was a full-time cartoonist.

In 1966, after seven years of illness, my mother died in the A-Bomb Victims Hospital in Hiroshima. When I went to the crematorium to collect her ashes, I was shocked. There were no bones left in my mother's ashes, as there normally are after a cremation. Radioactive cesium from the bomb had eaten away at her bones to the point that they disintegrated. The bomb had even deprived me of my mother's bones. I was overcome with rage. I vowed that I would never forgive the Japanese militarists who started the war, nor the Americans who had so casually dropped the bomb on us.

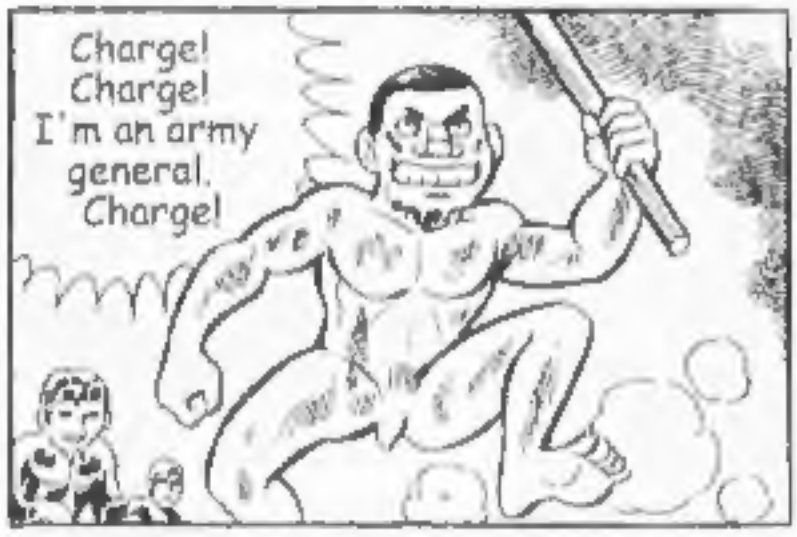
I began drawing comics about the A-bomb as a way to avenge my mother. I vented my anger through a "Black" series of six manga published in an adult manga magazine, starting with *Kuroi Ame ni Utarete* (*Struck by Black Rain*). Then I moved to *Shukan Shonen Jump* (*Weekly Boys' Jump*), where I began a series of works about the war and the A-bomb starting with *Aru Hi Totsuzen ni* (*One Day, Suddenly*). When the monthly edition of *Jump* launched a series of autobiographical works by its cartoonists, I was asked to lead off with my own story. My 45-page manga autobiography was titled *Ore wa Mita* (*I Saw It*). My editor at *Jump*, Tadasu Nagano, commenting that I must have more to say that wouldn't fit in 45 pages, urged me to draw a longer series based on my personal experiences. I gratefully began the series right away. That was in 1972.

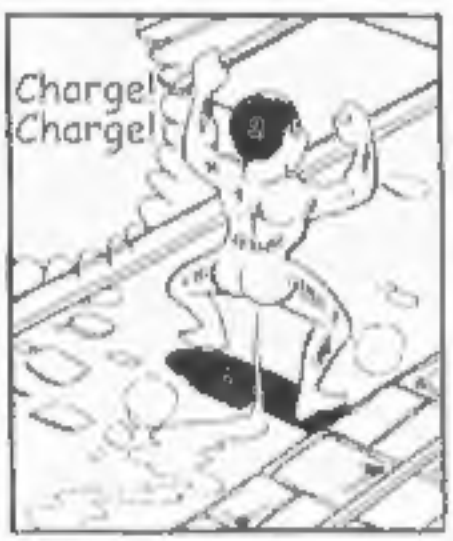
I named my new story *Hadashi no Gen* (*Barefoot Gen*). The young protagonist's name, Gen, has several meanings in Japanese. It can mean the "root" or "origin" of something, but also "elemental" in the sense of an atomic element, as well as a "source" of vitality and happiness. I envisioned Gen as barefoot, standing firmly atop the burnt-out rubble of Hiroshima, raising his voice against war and nuclear weapons. Gen is my alter ego, and his family is just like my own. The episodes in *Barefoot Gen* are all based on what really happened to me or to other people in Hiroshima.

Human beings are foolish. Thanks to bigotry, religious fanaticism, and the greed of those who traffic in war, the Earth is never at peace, and the specter of nuclear war is never far away. I hope that Gen's story conveys to its readers the preciousness of peace and the courage we need to live strongly, yet peacefully. In *Barefoot Gen*, wheat appears as a symbol of that strength and courage. Wheat pushes its shoots up through the winter frost, only to be trampled again and again. But the trampled wheat sends strong roots into the earth and grows straight and tall. And one day, that wheat bears fruit.


Groan...
Water...

Look, Mama. Those people's skin is hanging down.
This was no ordinary bomb.


Charge! Charge! I'm an army general. Charge!


Charge! Charge!

What's wrong with him? He's crazy...

STAGGER

M-
Ma'am...
Yes?

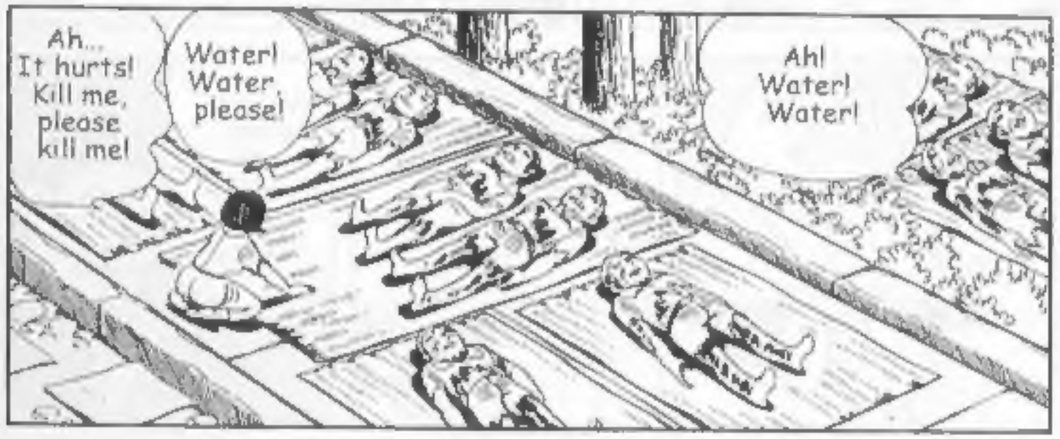
I'm Setsuko Ohkawa... first grade, Daiichi Girls' School... If my parents are alive, please tell them I died here...
What are you saying?! You mustn't give up!

My... parents are Hirokichi Ohkawa and Miyo...
Gasp... I want to see my mom... I want to see my dad...

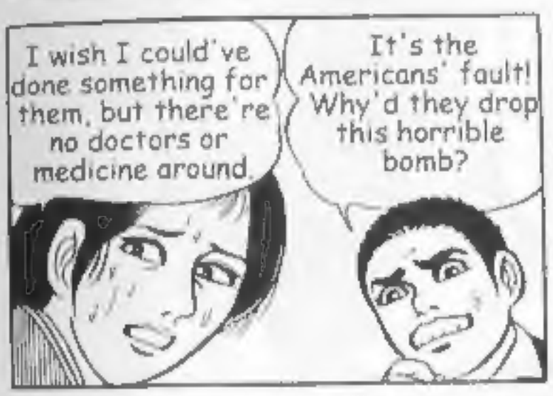
FLOP

Hey! Hang on!

S-
she's dead...
Poor girl... Bury her, Gen, will you?


Ah... It hurts! Kill me, please kill me!
Water! Water, please!
Ah! Water! Water!

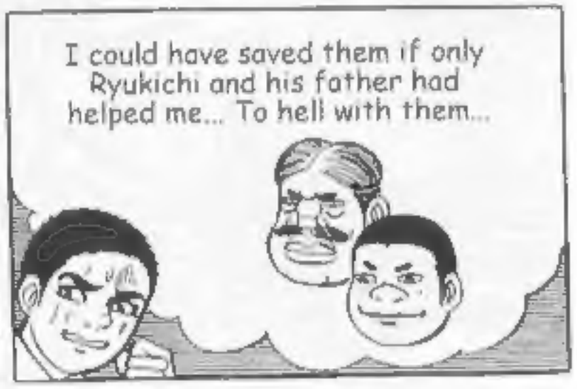
Look, Gen, there are so many piles of bodies all over the city... I wonder how many people have died... Hiroshima has become a living hell.
The rotting bodies smell awful. It's making me sick.


I wish I could've done something for them, but there're no doctors or medicine around.
It's the Americans' fault! Why'd they drop this horrible bomb?

We were lucky to survive.
How did you escape being hurt?

I was hanging the clothes on the laundry pole and was blown down.
Maybe the roof blocked the blast from me...

Your father, Eiko and Shinji were in the house. They were crushed under the fallen roof...


I could have saved them if only Ryukichi and his father had helped me... To hell with them...

How did you survive the bomb, Gen?

The concrete school wall behind me blocked the blast.

The lady in front of me was burned to death. Her body was so badly burnt...

What a horrible blast that was...

You have a burn mark on your head.

Do I? No wonder it hurts.

What're we going to do, Mama?

Your brother Koji may come back. So let's wait here for a while.

The city of Hiroshima had disappeared, buried under cries of pain and piles of corpses. The U.S. announced that the destruction of Hiroshima was caused by an atomic bomb, and urged Japan to unconditionally surrender...

But Japan's war leaders feared that panic might spread among the people. They hid the truth about the bomb and insisted that the war go on...

Sign: Water for fire

Knowing that Japan had no intention of surrendering, the U.S dropped a second atomic bomb nicknamed "Fat Man" on the city of Nagasaki at 11:05 a.m., August 9. It was three days after the bombing of Hiroshima.

And in Nagasaki, too, tens of thousands of citizens writhed in pain and died...

ROAR

As it has always been, it is the powerless, nameless, ordinary people who die in wars waged by a handful of men in power...

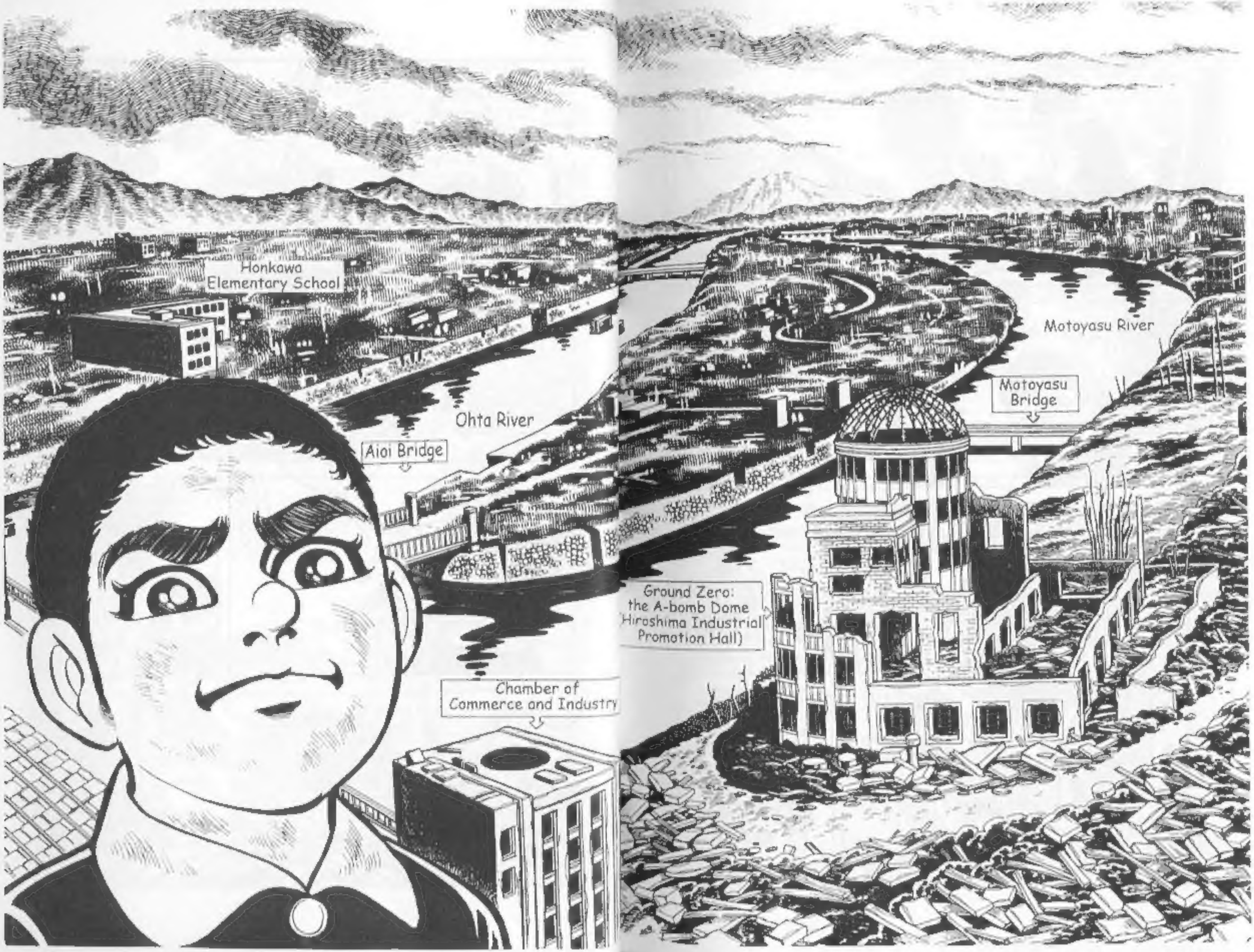
It hurts!

Water... give me some water.

Water, please!

On the same day, August 9, the Soviet Union attacked the Japanese Kwantung Army, breaking the Japan-USSR Non-Aggression Treaty.
Terrified by the atomic bombs and shaken by the USSR's entry into the war, Japan's leaders finally saw there was no way out and began to consider unconditional surrender...
.....

Every-thing is gone...
Everything has disappeared...
What will become of us?
What should we do? Tell me, Papa...
Survive, Gen! Be brave and take good care of your mother!
All right, I will. I will, Papa.


Honkawa
Elementary School
Ohta River
Aioi Bridge
Chamber of
Commerce and Industry
Motoyasu River
Motoyasu
Bridge
Ground Zero:
the A-bomb Dome
(Hiroshima Industrial
Promotion Hall)

.....

TAP TAP

Ah!

Hee hee!

P-Papa! Eiko! Shinji!

Hey, Gen! What're you so glum about? Cheer up! Cheer up!

Who...?! You're all alive! Am I dreaming...?

RUB RUB

We managed to get out of the house when it burned down, Gen.

Y-you aren't ghosts, are you?...

What are you talking about? Look! I have legs!

Me, too, Gen.

We're alive, Gen.

Wow! Papa, Eiko, Shinji, you're all alive!

Hurray!

Hurray!

Yay! I'm so happy, Shinji! So happy!

Yeah! Isn't it great, Gen!

I'll hurry to tell Mama. She'll be so surprised she might faint!

Come on, Shinji. We have a baby sister. She's cute!

.....

What are you doing? Come on now!

We have something to do first, Gen. We'll come later.

What is it, Papa?

We want to find something for the baby.

You don't have to bring anything.

No. We have to. I'll find a pretty kimono for her!

Gen, I'll find something tasty for her, too. Wait for me!

Hey, Papa, Eiko, Shinji! I'll go with you. Wait up!

Hey! Wait up!

Don't leave me alone!

No! Papa! Eiko! Shinji! Wait up!

Gen... Gen!

GASP!

What's the matter, Gen? You were crying. Were you having a nightmare...?

Was I dreaming?...

Mama, I just had a dream where Papa, Eiko and Shinji came back to us safe and sound.

They might be alive, Mama!

.....

They might come back here with gifts for the baby.

How wonderful it would be if your dream were true...

It IS true! I'm sure it's true!

I believe my dream!

Think ng about it makes me happy Mama

Wow I can hard y wait for them to come home!

Stop think ng about such things Give them up, Gen

.....

You saw them dying in the f re

They re dead

SHIVER

No No

They re al alive. Papa, Eiko and Shinji wi be back here w th g fts for the baby!

Don t say they re dead Mama! Don t! Don't

WAH! WAH! WAH!

.....

SOB

Gen!

I'm sorry, Gen I tried to destroy your dream

I was wrong They re alive I'm sure they are

Yes let s bel eve and be happy Gen!

Water

WAH! WAH! WAH!

Are you hungry, little one?

WAH! WAH! WAH!

Sob

Here you go

WAH! WAH!

SLURP

WAH! WAH! WAH!

What's wrong?

WAH! WAH!
Why is she crying?
There's no milk coming from my breasts, Gen.
What
No wonder. We haven't eaten anything for the past three days
WAH! WAH!
W-what should I do? She'll die if I can't feed her
No, Mama! Don't let her die!
Rice... I need rice...
Can rice help her?
Rice dumplings are said to increase a mother's milk.
And we can use rice broth as a substitute for milk
WAH! WAH!
But it's impossible to get rice. Everything has been burned down. What can we do?
WAH! WAH! WAH! WAH! WAH!
To find rice, we'll have to go way out into the countryside
Mama, I'll go. I'll go anywhere to get rice for her!
WAH! WAH!

Wait here 'til I come back, Mama
W-will you be all right, Gen?
Sure I will! I won't let my sister die
I have to show her to Papa, Eiko and Shinji when they come back.
Hey, sis, you may be hungry but you have to hang on. I'll bring lots of rice for you, OK? Don't die. I won't forgive you if you die!
I'll be back soon, Mama
Gen, be careful
.....
Dear Gen has become a strong young man. You can be proud of him.

Somebody p ease g ve my baby some milk

Water Water

WAH! WAH! WAH!

SLURP SLURP

Excuse me wou d you please give some milk to my baby?

WAH! WAH!

What? I don't even have enough milk for my own baby How can I feed yours?

Ask some-body e se

Y-you won't?

WAH! WAH!

There there. Please don t cry ike that

GOO GOO

I l ask her

Excuse me wil you p ease breast-feed my baby? P ease

He lo?

THUD

She's dead!

Her baby doesn't even know she s dead Poor l ttle boy

GOO GOO

Oh, I know you re hungry Please don t cry

WAH! WAH!

If only I could feed her

WAH! WAH! WAH!

Gen br ng some r ce back soon or she' l starve to death

Th s work s end ess There's bodies everywhere.

It sme ls awful

We better burn them qu ck They stink like he! They're rotting a ready

Ugh They're just like fish aid out in the fish market

Hurry it up, Sergeant Ogawa Clear the bod es faster

Yes sir

Ah

Hey so d er he s sti, alive He's mov ng his mouth!

Forget it! He'l die sooner or later

Scram kid! You re in our way!

B but he s sti alive.

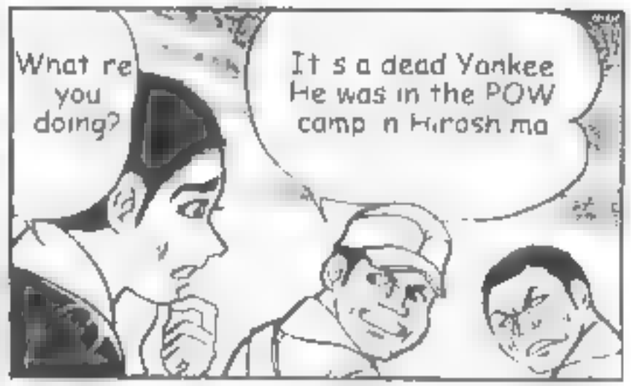
Up you go

This truck is fu We can't f t any more

OK Let s haul em to the f rer

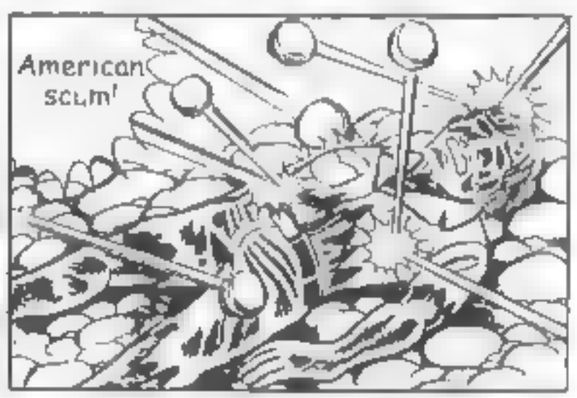
How many peop e have d ed from the bomb ? There s too many to count!

.....
You bastard
Dirty rat!
H t him!


What re you doing?
It s a dead Yankee He was in the POW camp n Hirosh ma

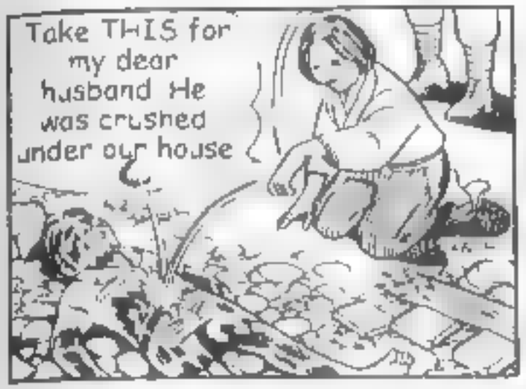
This is all h s fault!

Bastard! Here, throw a rock yourself


American scum!

Can I ,o n n boys?
WOBBLE
Yeah Come on, ma'am Be our guest

You evi Yankee American pig!


Take THIS for my dear husband He was crushed under our house

And this one s for my daughter She died with a.l her skin burnt off

THIS is for my poor grandson He was burned to death n the f re

You damn Yankee!
You took them a.l from me! Give me back my husband, my daughter, my grandson my home!

Why? Why did you drop that horrible bomb on us?
We didn't do anything to you Why do we have to suffer ike this?

SOB
MOAN

The Americans even k lled their own so diers They rea y are evil

But I can't waste any more time I've gotta hurry and bring some rice home or our baby'l d e

PANT PANT

WOBBLE

I m starting to fee sick!

Pant pant I m getting d zzy Must be from not eat ng and the sme from those rotting bod es

Oh no

I'm gonna fa nt

WOBBLE

No! I nave to be strong

If I don t bring any rice back, our baby w ll d e.

Unhh Every-th ng's go ng black

H-he-p, Mama!

THUD!

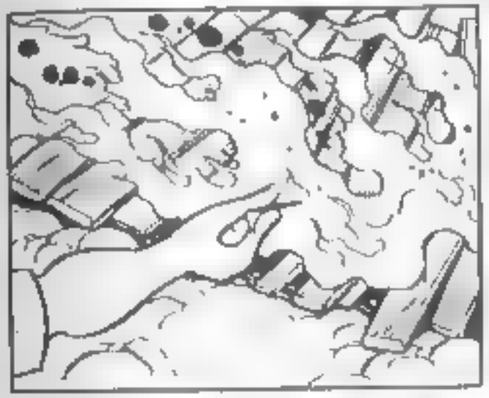
URKK

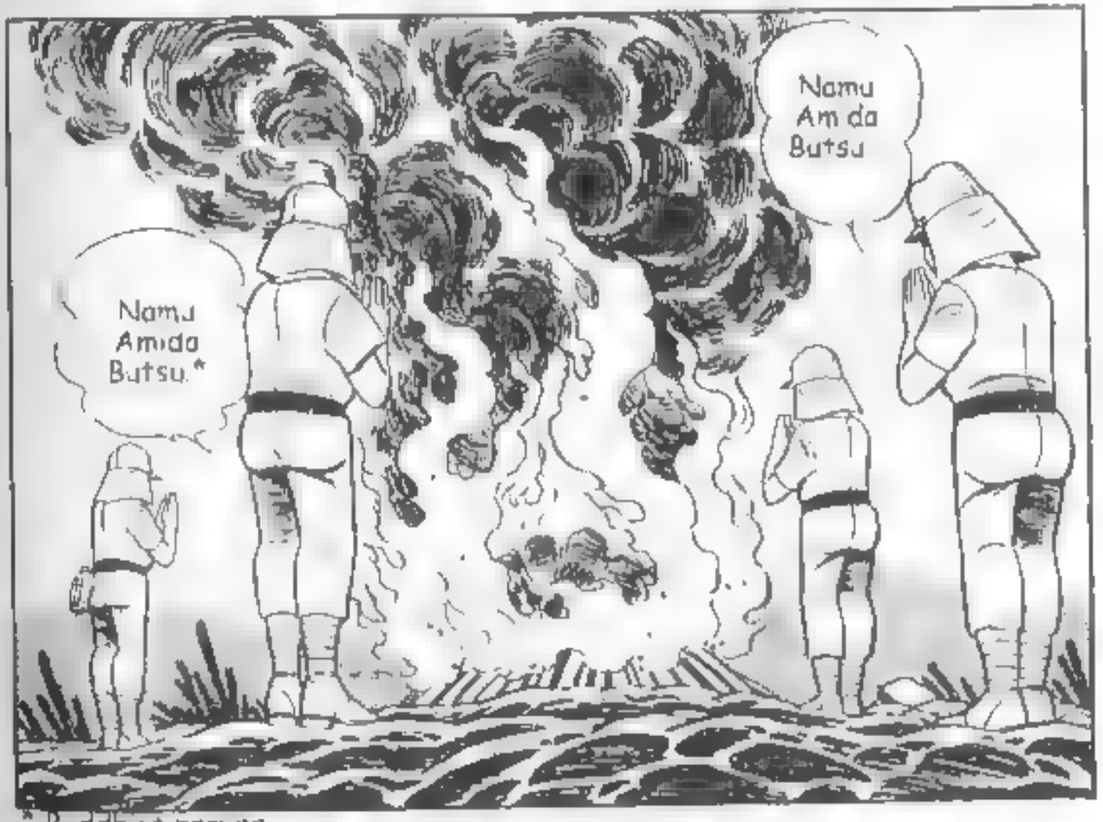
TROMP TROMP

Hey there's one more body over there.

He s in better shape than most of em

There s something strange about the bomb they dropped here Some people seem f ne but then they sudden y drop dead Why is that?
I don t know





*Buddhist prayer

Namu Amida
Butsu
Namu Amida
Butsu

AIEEE!

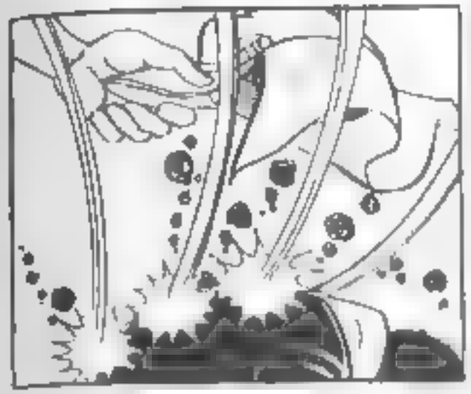
Ah!
Wha-?

Aaghh

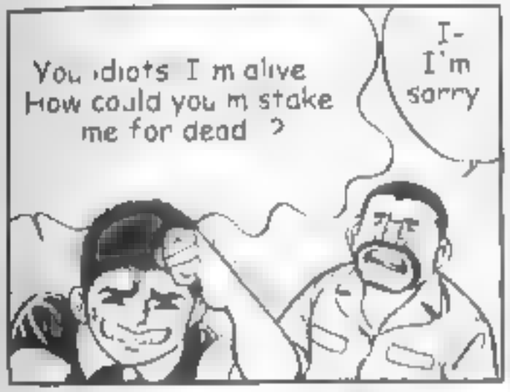
Hey!
That boy s
alive!

Yow
I'm
burning
He p!

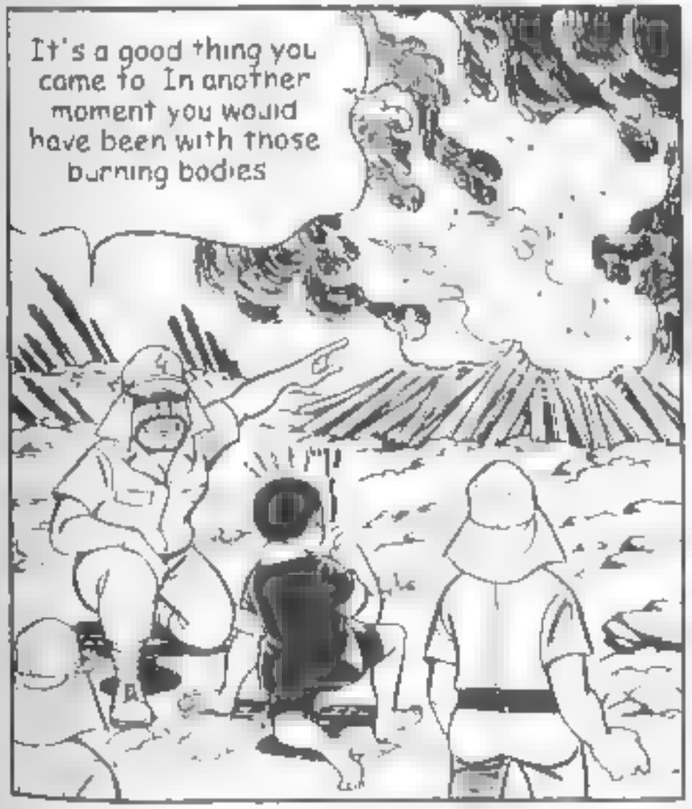
A ee!
Qu ck!
Put out
the f re



Hey k d, you OK?
We thought you
were dead
GROAN


You idiots I m alive
How could you m stake
me for dead ?
I-
I'm
sorry

Stup d
Saying sorry
doesn t help!
You're burned
I ll take you to
the Medica
Station


It's a good thing you
came to In another
moment you would
have been with those
burning bodies

CRACKLE

B-burning
f esh
smel s
awful
Let s
go

Owl My burns hurt

Hang on, k d Here eat th s It s my lunch

Wowl Bis- cuits

Y- yummy!

Mmm, t tastes great! I haven't eaten in three days, you know

Yeah? You can have 'em al Eat as many as you like

Really? But then you I have noth ng to eat

Don't worry I haven't fe t ke eating much these past few days

Gee thanks so d er

I have a boy ke you in Kumamoto

Carrying you on my back ke this reminds me of my son

I l sing for you kid so cheer up .....

I can hardly wait for the day when my servant days are over

Oh, how I want to go home

So dier, there're dead bodies in every water tank They ve swollen up like water- melons

Poor th ngs

The fire must ve been so hot They had nowhere else to run but into these smal tanks

Look. This woman was trying to save her children by holding them tight. But all in vain

That's a boy and his little sister. He was trying to protect her

Cruel. It's just too cruel

.....

Hey, soldier, you get those Yankees, OK? You've gotta win this war!

It's too awful, the way these people died!

I-I'll get 'em, son

They killed so many innocent women and children

You get 'em, sir. You show 'em

.....

STAGGER

Pant pant

What's wrong? Are you hurt?

Sorry, kid. Can you walk from here? I don't feel so good

O OK.

Pant pant

S-strange. I've always been tough as nails. But since I came to Hiroshima to clear bodies, I feel tired all the time.

Pant pant

A-are you OK, soldier?

Agh, tastinks!

Hey, what happened? You messed your pants!

Nonsense! Why would I do that?

You mean you didn t notice?

S-stop fool ng with me kid

I m not lying See for yourself

What?

He he's right When did I

It s bloody Have I got dysentery?

S-strange I don't have any pa n in my stomach

Hey, your ha r just fell out

My hair ?

T-this much hair at one t me

Wha- what's happening to me ?

Ha ha! You have lots of bald spots on your head

GRRR

S-sorry I aughed at you, mister

BRRR BRRR

I-I'm cold

Co d? It s the m ddle of summer You feel cold?

Agh I m f- freezing!
Please he p me son
BRRR
T take it easy mister What s wrong?
Blankets Get me some blankets
Where? Every- th ng's been burned
I-I m so co d Please, put someth ng over me
Oh no! What I I do?
Hey, how about th s sheet of tin?
Owl!
Wow, the sun sure heated this up
Maybe it'll keep him warm

Get a ho d of yourse f, soldier
Are you st ll cold?
Yes, I m f-freez ng P-put more on me
How can he feel cold w th that hot tin on him?
He must have gone crazy
OOF!
URGHH
Groan Ryota Shinkichi Your dad s home with lots of presents for you, boys
He must have a fever He's dreaming about his fam ly

Hang on, sold er! Your kids w l cry if you die!

Moan

If I leave him here, he ll die I'll take him to the Medical Station.

Hold on! I'll take you to the doctor

THUD

Argh

He s too heavy to carry on my back.

What ll I do?!

Ahh Ungh

I know! I can make a s ed out of this t n sheet

How did I get myse f into this

BAM BAM

Now it s ready

Hey, am I smart or what!

OOMPH!

You ve gotta hang on, Ok?

Ah Ah

Heave-ho, Heave-ho

This isn t fair I was the one who was supposed to be taken to the doctor

RATTLE RATTLE

RATTLE RATTLE RATTLE

Heave-ho Heave-ho

Help
It hurts.
G ve me water
Groan

Puff puff So many people!
RATTLE RATTLE
Groan.
He p
Agn

Here we are at the Medica Station m ster.
I'll f nd a doctor to take care of you, so cheer up!

Doctor, please check him He's very sick.
Not again!

It hurts so much, Nurse P ease g ve me some medicine now
I'm sorry we can t We ve run out of med c ne

On y treat the ones who ook like they might l ve, Nurse.
Yes Doctor

Hurry p ease Get this glass out of my body The pieces are scraping together nside me It hurts so much!

My wounds are rotting and they're ful of maggots I can t stand the tch
Some body he.p me

Sign Medical Station

Dumb kid! This isn t a place to bring dead people Take him away
T- take h m away?

Oh I get t, you're kidd ng r ght?!
Id ot! Put your hand on his heart!

Hey, soldier !

Argh! H-he s dead
He s cold He rea ly s dead

D d he have diarrhea, vom t b ood and complain of a chil ?
Yes Yes

Same as those so diers over there They came here to he p clear out the bodies in the city They came here healthy and now they're dead

W-what happened?

I have no idea

Maybe it was that new atomic bomb they dropped on Hirosh ma

A-atomic bomb!?

No I can't stand it

I brought you all the way here for nothing!

Open your eyes, so dier You can t just d e

S ng me a song again

Get well and go back to your boys n Kumamoto

Aagh th s s too much!

Why is everybody around me dying?

I don't want to see any more dead bod es

Those damn Americans Why did they have to drop such a horrib e bomb?

Why? Why is everybody dying?!

WAH! WAH!

Somebody, please nurse my baby .....

Shut up! That baby wi die soon anyway

H how could you say such a thing?

Name tag Gen Nakaoka, Grade 2

Die! Die!

A are you crazy?

Give it to me I ll k ll .t

Stop What are you doing?!

Here Die! Die!

SLURP SLURP SLURP

Y You re. .....

An Here you go Drink t ll you're fu dear

W what in the world s she

Don't worry I won t kill your child

A few m nutes ago I was nurs ng my own baby

But now he s he's

Look He was burned and d ed covered with maggots

When I saw your baby, I was so sad and jealous that I felt like k ng her That s why I talked that way

I I was stup d

M ma am

But don't worry I feed her as f she were my own

Thank you so much You've saved her

You don't have to thank me. I can forget my sorrows for a wh le by helping

... .

SLURP SLURP

L ucky litt e one! You re so lucky

Gen Your sister will survive Th s lady saved her

Puff puff Gotta get out to the country and br ng back some rice, or my s ster w die Mama s wa ting!

I lost a lot of time trying to help that soldier I ve gotta hurry

Oh!

M my hair s falling out, too

L lots of it

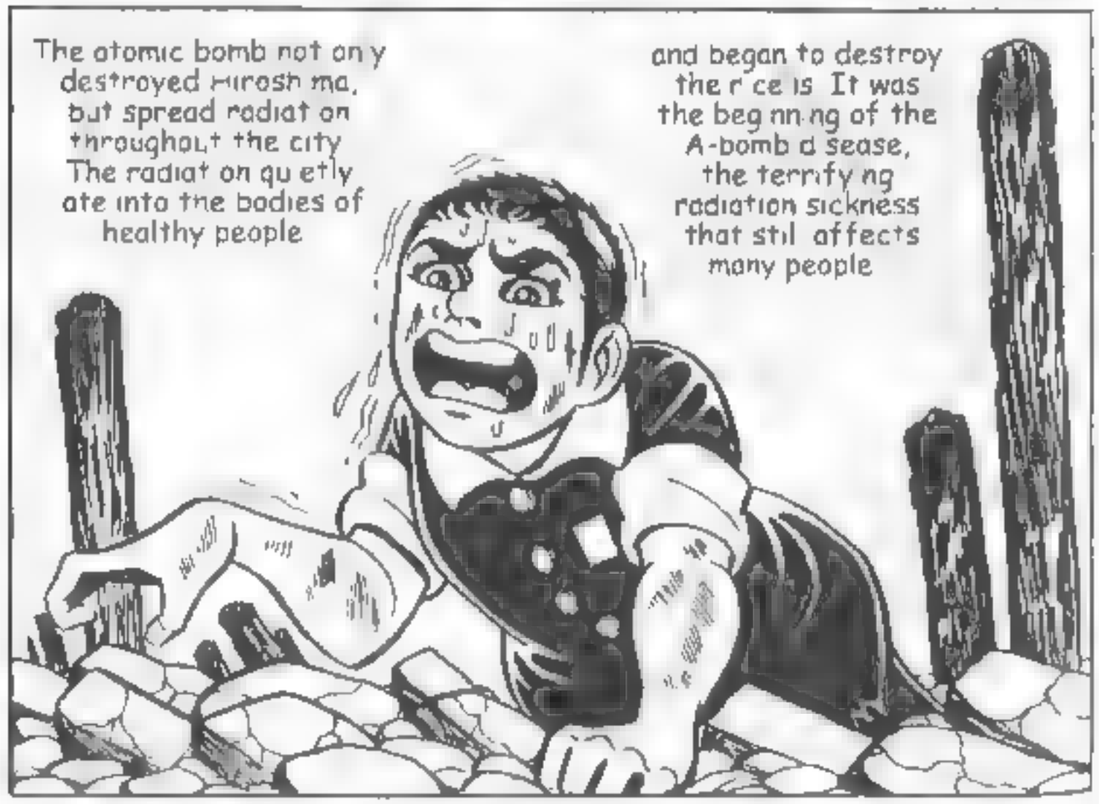
BRRR

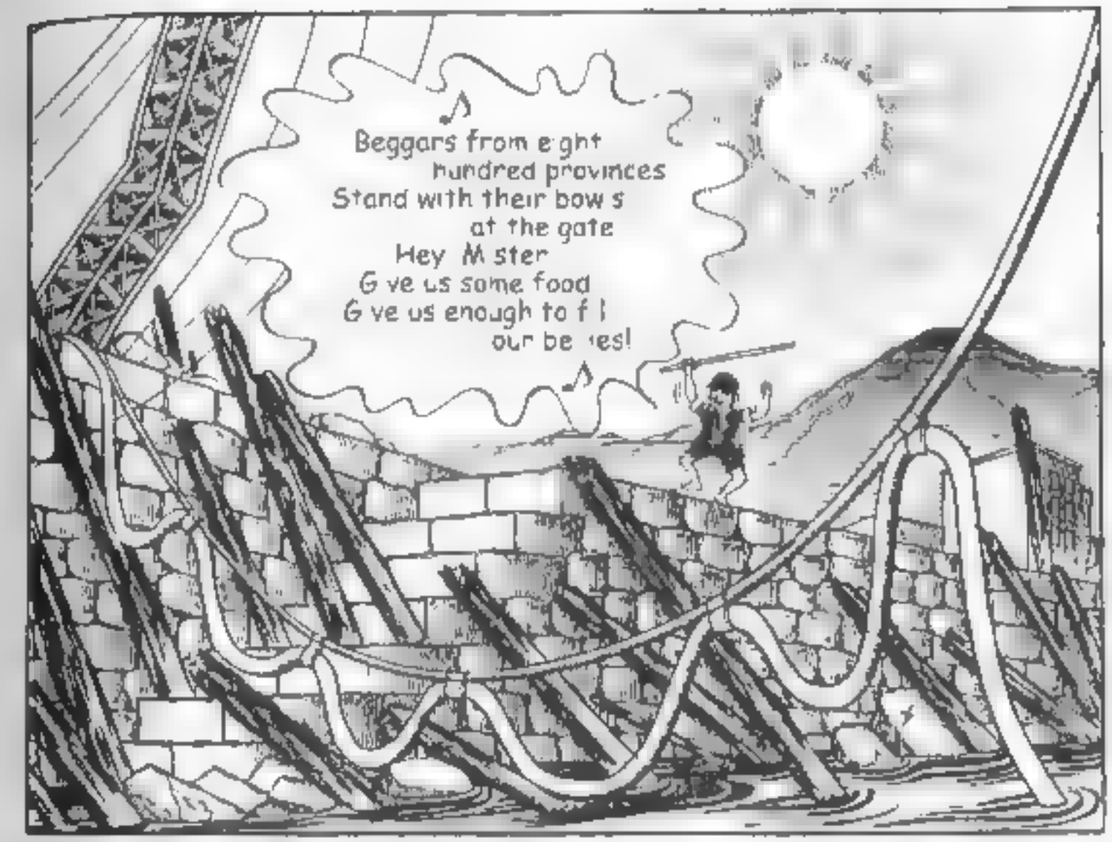
Eee Just like that sold er

Agh A am I dying, too?!

No! No!
I don't wanna d.e!

H help me Mama, help me I'm scared!


The atomic bomb not on y destroyed Hirosh ma, but spread radiat on throughout the city The radiat on qu etly ate into the bodies of healthy people
and began to destroy the r ce is It was the beg nn ng of the A-bomb d sease, the terrify ng radiation sickness that stil affects many people


Beggars from e ght hundred provinces Stand with their bow s at the gate Hey M ster G ve us some food G ve us enough to f l our be ies!

PO-PO-POTATO SWEET POTATO ♪ HEY! ♪

Boy I've found a n ce cap
It's a fire- f ghter s!

Go tell everyone that Fire Chief Gen w l put out all the fires!

Where s the fire?!
Where's the fire?
Yahoo

Pant
pant

I m
th rsty
I l get
a drink

.....

Pant
pant

.....

N-noo

BRRR

M my hair
is a l gone
I m bald

After the
soldier lost his
hair he d ed

No!

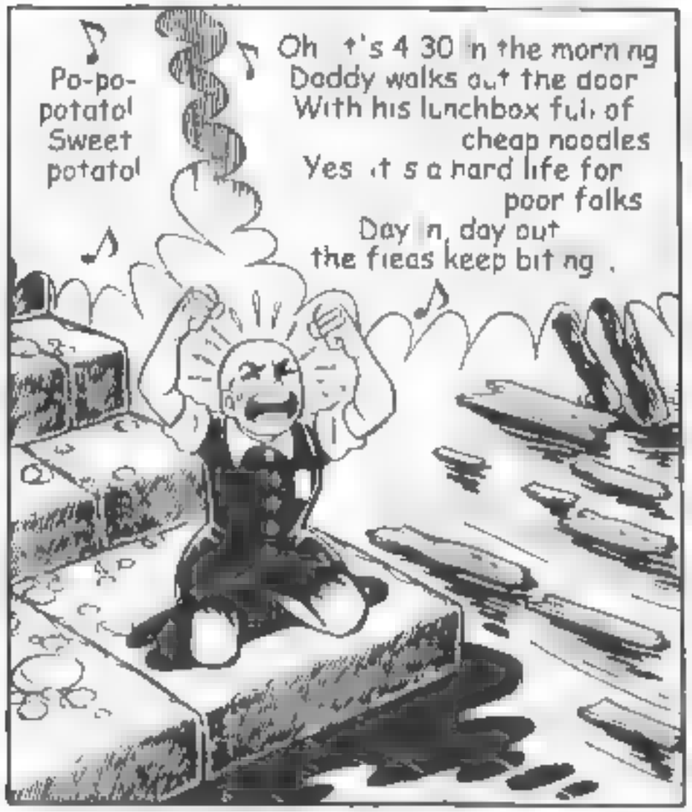
Damn
t

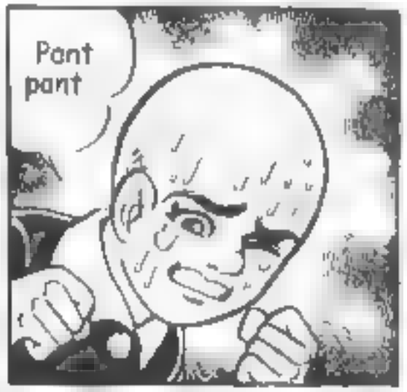
SPLASH

I m not
going to d e
I'm not!

I'm hea thy
I'm strong!
I am

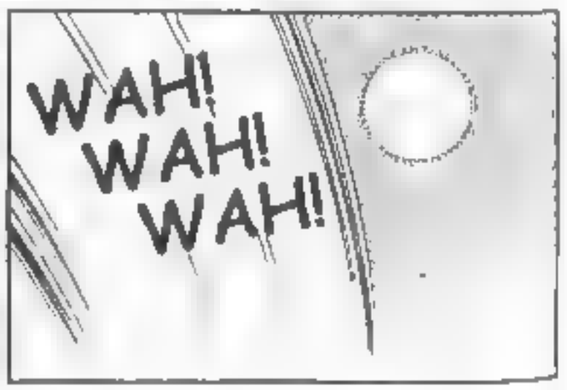
I won't die
No way!
I don't care if
I've gone bald!
See if I care!


Po-po-
potato!
Sweet
potato!
Oh it's 4 30 in the morning
Daddy walks out the door
With his lunchbox full of
cheap noodles
Yes it's a hard life for
poor folks
Day in, day out
the fleas keep biting.


Pant
pant

I don't
want
to die
I don't
want
to die

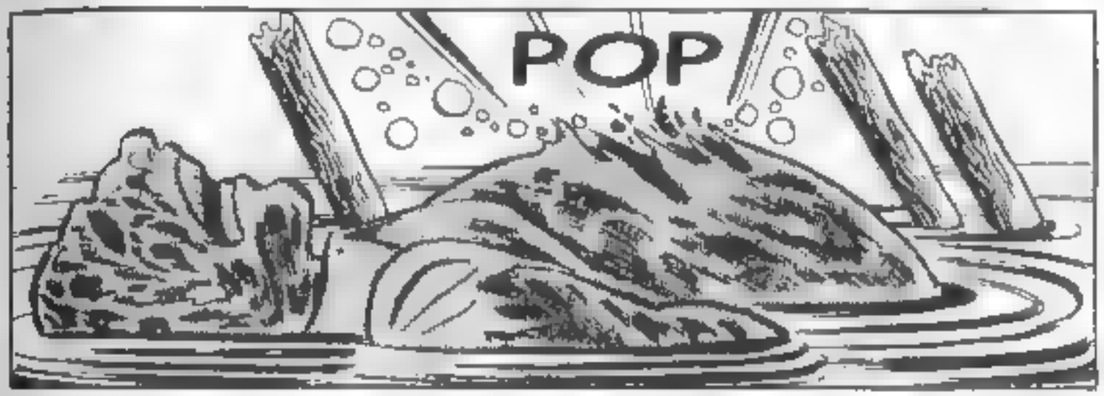
Wan
Please don't
et me die!

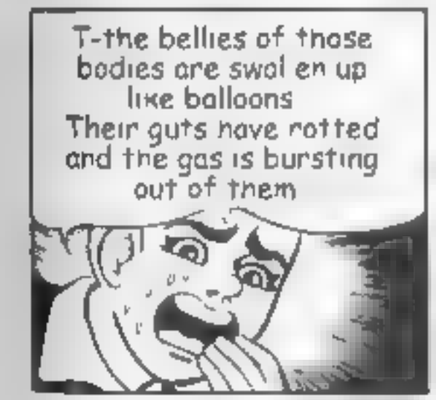

WAH!
WAH!
WAH!

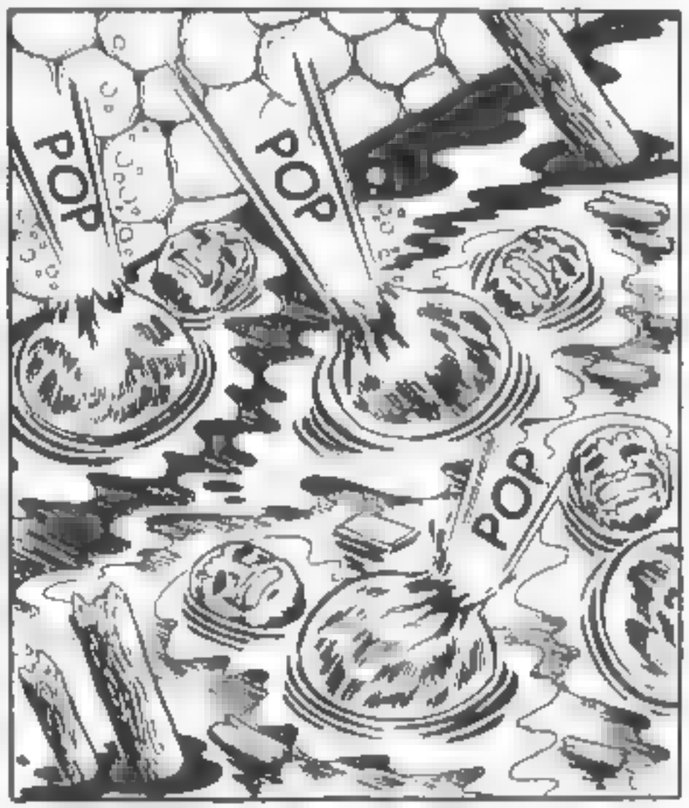
POP
POP

W-
what's
that
sound?
POP

Ack!


POP


T-the bellies of those
bodies are swollen up
like balloons
Their guts have rotted
and the gas is bursting
out of them

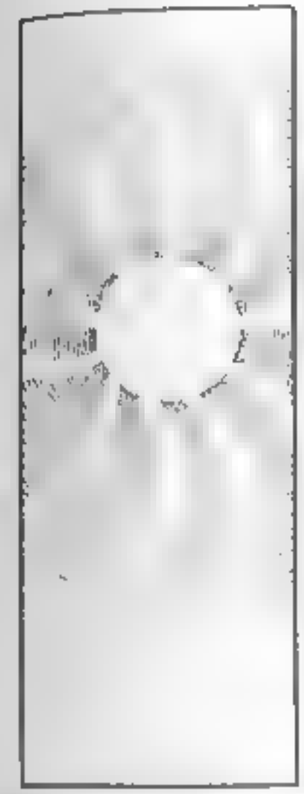

POP
POP
POP
POP

Ecchh
t
stinks!

The bodies are f oat ng back and forth on the t.de

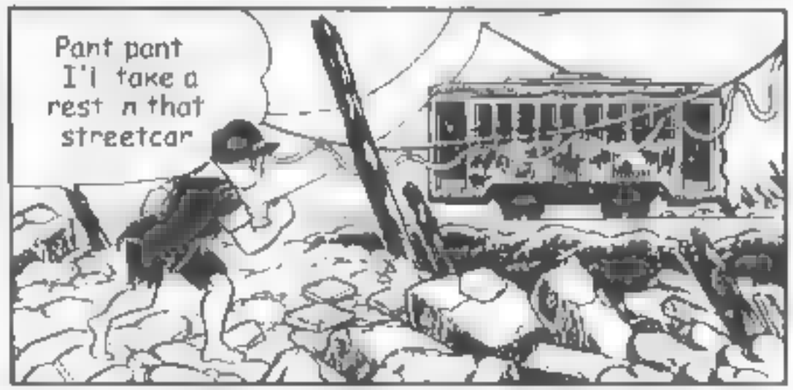
I-I don't want to end up ke that
I won t Never!

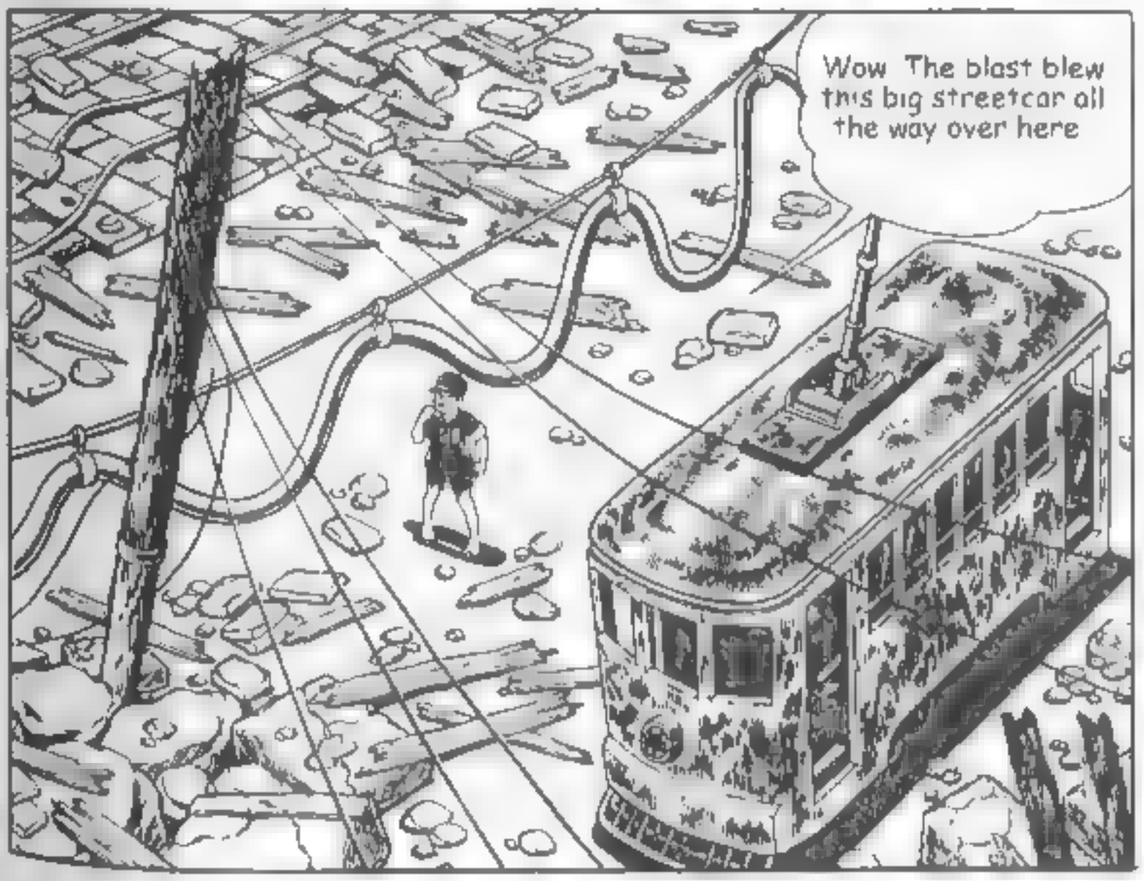
Puff puff Gotta get out of here, or I ll choke



Whew It sure s hot
The sun is so bright

STAGGER


Pant pant I'l take a rest n that streetcar


Wow The blast blew this big streetcar all the way over here

Puff puff
Huh?
W-what are these th ngs crow ing on me?
M. maggots!
Why are there so many maggots here?
Unk

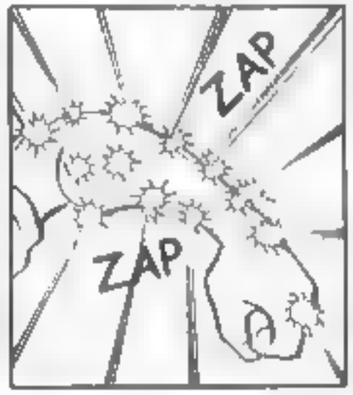
Ugh! Th s car is full of bod es w th maggots a l over them
This man is dead but stil ho d ng the strap.
The bomb must have kilied them a l in an instant
Agh, that smell
I can't stand it
URGH!
I can t take any more of this!
The smell s making me dizzy

Puff puff
W th all these
bodies
everywhere,
I can t find
a place to rest

BZZZ

BZZZ
W-what's
that
sound?

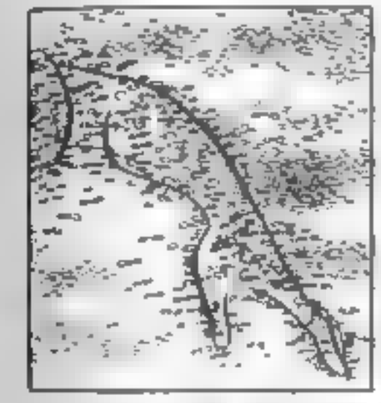
Ow!
ZAP
ZAP

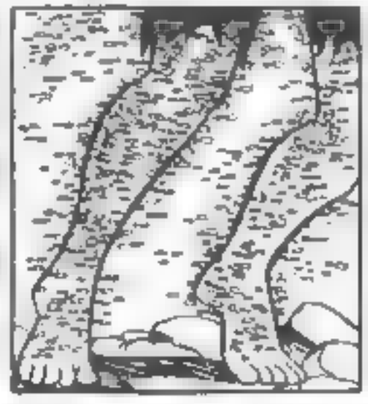

ZAP
ZAP

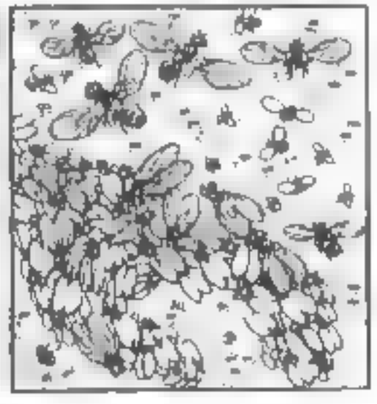
ZAP
ZAP

BZZZZZ
Aaahh
Something s
coming
after me!

BZZZZ
Aagh!
BZZZZ







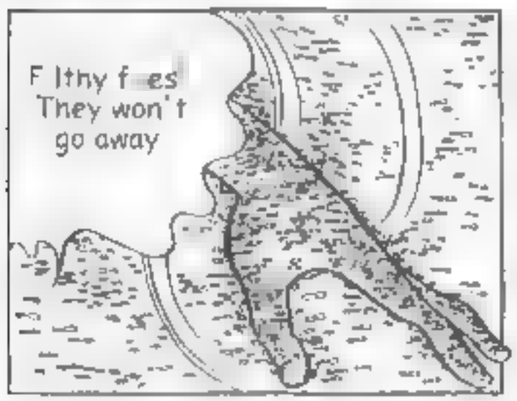
Aarghl
They
they're
flies!
Flies from all
the dead bodies
are swarming
all over me!

Ouch! They're fly ng r gnt into my eyes

Oh no They re crow ng nto my ears!

Damn you! Get off me!

Go away Shoo!


F lthy f es They won't go away

Get off me!

Damn you!

Yaahh Help!
BZZZ
BZZZ

Gasp
This is scary

Pant pant This heat s making all the maggots turn nto flies r ght away

Ah!

BZZZ
BZZZ

Mumble. Mumble
BZZZ

W-what s the matter with that lady ?
How can she stand all those flies on her?

Mumb e Mumb e

Maybe she's too tired to shoo them away
Poor woman! I he p her

Get out, flies Go away! Scram!

WHOOSH

BZZZZ

You fool! What are you do ng?!
Huh?

Stop it right now!
I-I was trying to he p you

How could you chase my precious f es away? Id ot!
SLAP!
Ow

Y-you old witch! How come you h t me?

Now come back my dear Shotaro
Is is she crazy?

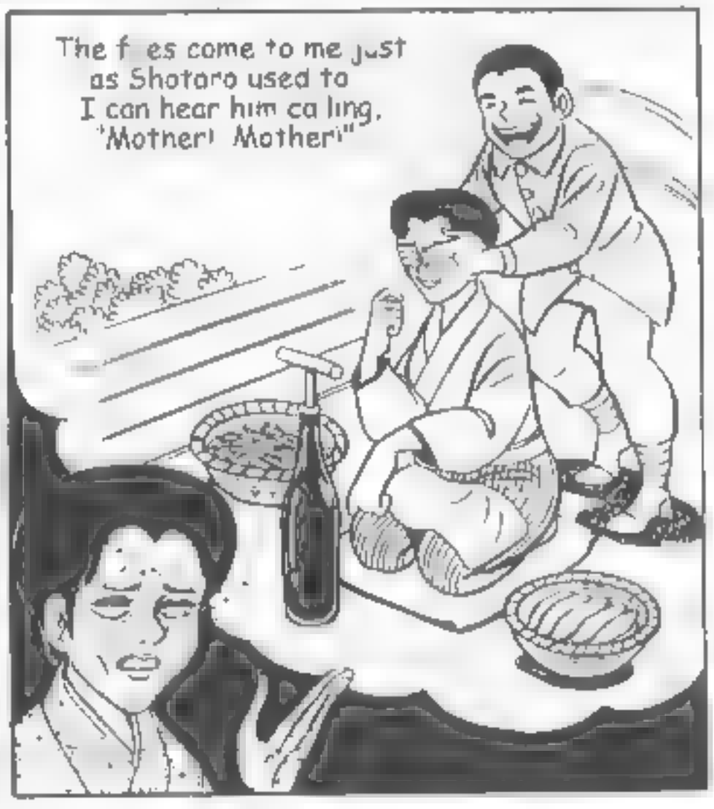
BZZZZ

I can t believe this

I m sorry I hit you, boy
But these flies are the reincarnat on of my only son, Shotaro

T- they are?

Look Maggots are com ng out of Shotaro's body and changing into fl es.


The f es come to me just as Shotaro used to I can hear him ca ling, "Mother! Mother!"

I feel comforted with these flies around me

.....

Ah He was a tender-hearted boy and was always nice to me

He just happened to be in Hirosh ma to visit a re ative and

Here, Shotaro I've brought you some peaches from our garden. The peaches you liked so much

Here eat

Is it good Shotaro?

I have lots, so eat as many as you like.

You too young man

Wow You'll let me have one? Gee, thanks, ma'am!

I m sorry I cal ed you an old witch I-I didn't realize.

Ah. I don't know how I wi l ve from now on.

My husband was k l ed in battle and now Shotaro, my on y son my only hope, is dead too I have nobody to ive for

Only three days ago, Shotaro eft home w th a big smile on his face

Ca l to your mother just once more Shotaro.

Please Please.

Ah Shotaro Shotaro.

.....

Come on ma am. You've got to be strong

Sob Sob

I-I ve gotta go now

I have to get some rice for my mother

I know t s hard for you ma'am, but hang in there OK? I gotta go

That's enough I've seen too many bod es I want to get out of here.

Boy! This peach looks delicious

.....

W-wa t! I'd better keep this for Mama If she eats it maybe she can feed the baby

Pant pant

Wait for me, Mama I br ng some r ce back for you

Ah

T-that's my sister!

The way she walks the way she looks It's got to be E ko!

S-she's a ve I knew it!

Papa and Sh nji must be alive, too

EIKO!

E ko! Eiko!

That's Eiko for sure

She looks just like that from behind I know it's her

Eiko's alive! My sister's alive!

I knew it! I knew it They're all alive

Eiko!

Eiko

WAIT! HEY! WAIT UP!

Pant pant

Eiko

WAH! Eiko I'm so glad you're alive I knew you weren't dead

Mama's alive too!

And we have a baby sister now!

Eiko ?

Gasp

....

I'm not Eiko.

My name is Natsue!

THUD

Y-you're not Eiko ?

You're not my sister?

WAH!

I want to see my sister! I want to see my brother Shinji! I want to see Papa!

WAH! WAH! WAH!

....

SLAP!

Don't be a crybaby!

Get hold of yourself!

B but

I hate crybabies

Sniff From the back she looks just like Eiko

.....

What's she doing? She's looking into the mouths of dead people.

Not this one

WOBBLE

She's acting weird

. . . .

I left her around here, so she must be somewhere near here

I must find her
I have to

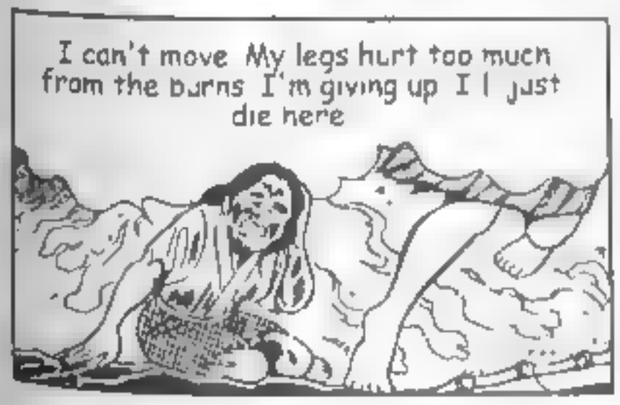
That awful f re. It killed my mother

Not th s one, either

W-what are you doing?!
I've looked n hundreds of mouths, but I haven't found her yet

My mother has three gold-capped teeth in front and three in the back.
Where can she be?
You're looking for your mother s body ?

Run Mother run! The f.re will catch us!
Natsue I can't I can t run any more


I can't move My legs hurt too much from the burns I'm giving up I I just die here

Don't say that! Get up! Run!
Aaagh Natsue P ease put my ashes n the grave with your father's

Don't worry about me I l be going to meet your dear departed father Leave now and save yourself

No! Don't be a fool mother!

Please stand up! Come w th me!

I can t It's no use. But promise me, Natsue, you ll bury me next to your father

Mother You can't die

ROAR

Aahn! The flames are coming together from all sides! They re covering everything!

KRAAK

Eek!

Aiee

MOTHER

.....

.....

I promised her I'd bury her ashes w th Father's I ve got to find her body f it s the ast thing I do

Sob She really oved Japanese dance She wanted to see me become a professional and dance on a big stage.

She s a dancer? Poor girl With those burns, she'll never be able to dance in public.

Now she ll never see me dance again
I can t even find her

Sob
Don't cry, Natsue I'l help you look for her

Why are you being so nice to me?
B-because you remind me of my sister Eiko.

We'l look for her together OK?
T thank you I appreciate that

Agh! My face itches

It tches so bad, I can t stand it! Is my face all right?
Uh

Someth ng's mov ng

POP
POP

SPLAT
Ack!

Yuck I just touched her face and pus shot out

How is my face? I want to know
. . .

Hey do you have a mirror?
N-no

Tell me do I look pretty?
Y yeah

Am I pretty really? Don't lie to me
Y yes, you are You ve got a slight burn, though

Oh, that s a re ef! If my face were ugly I'd kil myself
. . .

Because then I couldn t dance in publ c.
Dance s my l fe

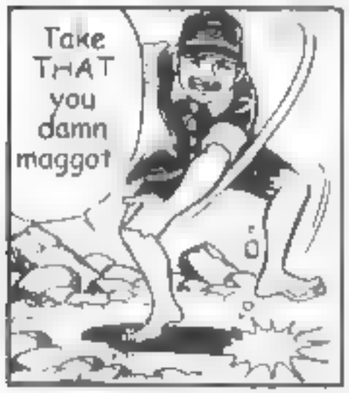
Agh t's tching aga n
Don t move, Natsue There s something on your face

Maggots!

I can t stand t Hurry, do someth ng
It itches because they re moving on your face. I'll get rid of them

Hold st ll

I got one!


Take THAT you damn maggot

Hang on, Natsue. I'll get r d of all of them
Sob .

Phew! There s so many

You damn maggots!

You don't feel itchy now, do you?
T thanks

It's strange I have so much pus on my face
My face must be really burned
.....

I want to see my face I want to know Isn t there a m rror around here?

If she sees herself in a mirror, she ll probably die of shock
I can't let her .

You're pretty Real y There were some maggots in your burns That's a l Don't worry
.....

A-am I really pretty? I'l k ll you if you re lying to me!
I-I'm not lying You're pretty

All right I believe you
.....

Now, let s look for your mother

Y- yeah

Pant pant

Pant pant

It's no use We ve ooked all over but we can't f nd her

Ahh, where can she be?

Mother, you foo! Don t h de! Where are you?!

She's probably somewhere under the rubb e, Natsue

Urk!

Oh no! Black blood!

Groan .

A-are you al r ght Natsue?

Gasp I can t breathe Water

Hang on Natsue!

Water Get me water

Where am I going to find water around here ?

Oh!

I was going to give this peach to Mama.

but I ll give it to her

I'm sorry Mama I won't be g ving this to you.

Just imagine that I m g ving t to Eiko

Eat this, Natsue.

A-a peach!!

GOBBLE

Oh It tastes so good

Gulp

Gasp T-thanks k d

I I never forget you. I know you must have wanted that peach for yourse f

It's OK, Natsue.

Pant pant I m t-tired I ll just stay here

No! Come on, you've got to get up!

You re better off not worry ng about me.

No! If I leave you here, you m ght d e!

Die? No I m not going to die! Not before I become a famous dancer!

THUD

Natsue!

Moan

She fainted Wow, she has a real y high fever!

What s the matter? She has purple spots all over her body

Purple spots were one of the symptoms of radiation s ckness

I can t let her d e

It s as f my own sister Eiko were dying I ve got to help her! What I do ?

VROOOMM

SCREECH!

All injured persons board th s truck! We'l take you to the Army Hosp tal in Ninoshima!

All injured persons board th s truck!

Great! I'll ask them to take her to the hospital

Hold on Natsue I'l get them to take care of you.

Wait up soldiers wa t up!

Come on, hurry up! We haven t got al day

Groan.

Oh, al r ght, here I ll help you up

Ah

Agh! H s flesh came r ght off in my hands! No use carrying this one.

H- how aw- ful!

Take her to the hosp tal, please.

OK Get on.

There you are, now

Pant pant

Please g ve me water

Mama Papa help

It hurts It hurts

Groan Water

.....

This must be hell! I can't take any more of th s!

Groan

Hold on Natsue You ve got to hold on

Gasp!

You re going to be a great dancer, right? Don t die P ease don t

VROOOMM

OK Let s go!

Anh

Groan

It hurts

Water Water

Help

Hang on Natsue! The boat w ll be here any minute to take us to the hosp tal in Ninoshima

Pant pant Water give me some water

She wants water, too All the burned peop e ask for water

H-hurry I need water My throat s on f re

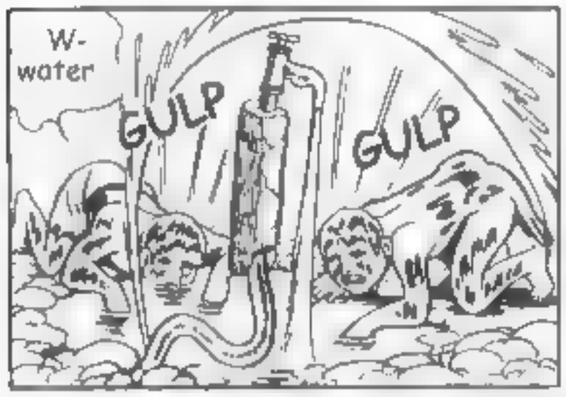
O OK I l go get some!

Water water water I ve got to find someth ng to put t in

Aha
Just what I need A mess kit!
Ack! There's a hand stuck to the handle!
Hey! Let go!
FWISSHH
Wow! I found some water!
The blast must've ripped someone's arm right off
Even with everything burned around here, you can still get water!

This should do it
Wha-?!
Water Water
That man's just letting his loincloth drag along the ground How disgusting!
T-that's not a loincloth It's the skin from his back !
Groan.
Oh no
Water Water
That man is dragging something too

Agghh! His intestines are hanging out of his stomach! I can't believe he's still alive
Groan


W-water
GULP
GULP

THUD

Gurgle.

Gasp As soon as they drank the water, they fell over dead

W-what if Natsue dies when she drinks this water, too?

Puff puff Here you go Natsue
G-give me some, quick

Drink slowly OK?
T-thank you.

What's wrong? I thought you were dying of thirst Is there something in the water?
.....

Y-you lied to me didn't you!
You lied!

LIAR!

W-why did you hit me?
My face looks horrible! I have terrible burns!

You said I was pretty You lied to me
Damn She must've seen her reflection in the water

With these ugly burns on my face, how can I ever dance in public again?!

All my dreams, all my hopes are gone I'm ru ned!

Sob! It's over It s all over

I never should ve brought her the water in that mess K t

Listen, Natsue It s not so bad The doctors can fix a burn like that in no time!

Sob. Sob

W-where are you going, Natsue?

SWOOSH

Oh, no You fool!

SPLASH!

NATSUE!

SPLASH

You diot, Natsue!

They're just burns! You don't have to die because your face is burnt!

Somebody help us!

Hey those kids are drowning!

Here grab ho d of this!

Gasp

Pant pant

Cough cough

You can t give up, Natsue! Please don t d.e!

Sob

No! I wanna die Don't try to stop me!

.....

PUTT-PUTT-PUTT-PUTT

The boat s here Everybody get on board

PUTT-PUTT-PUTT

Hurry up now!

Aghh

Ah

TROMP TROMP TROMP

We re go ng to N noshima Is land, Natsue We' l get your burns treated there So hang on.

Moan.

We re full Let s go!

Help

Give me some water

Groan

Water

Help me

Water

Gosh! Everyone on this boat is injured!

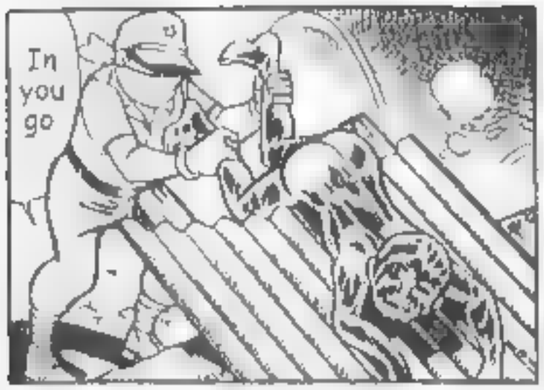
Fu speed

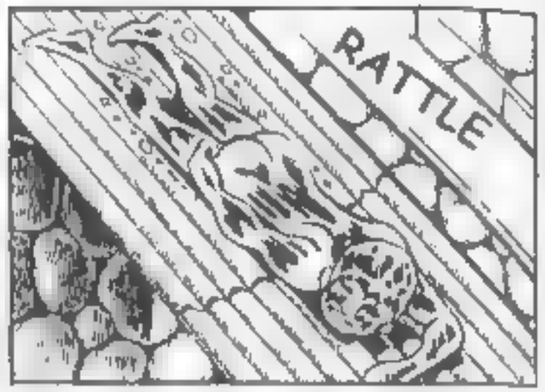
VROOOM

PUTT-PUTT-PUTT

PUTT-PUTT PUTT-PUTT

Ack


In you go

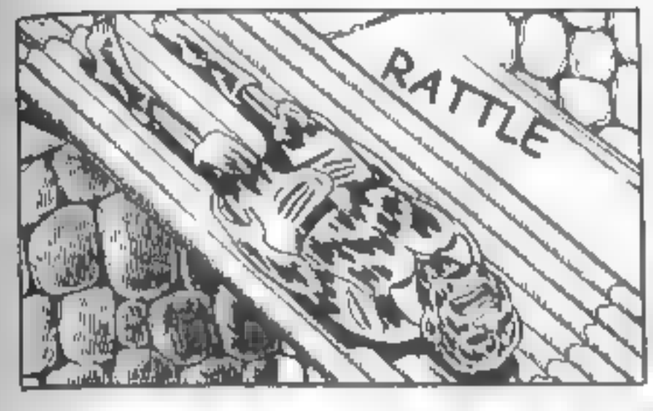

RATTLE

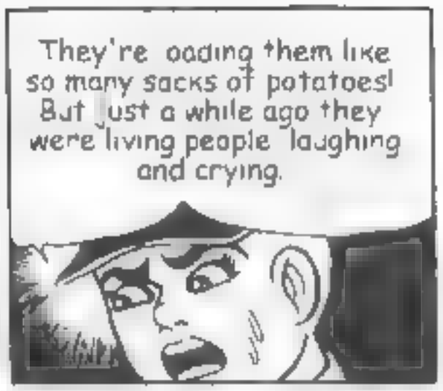
KATHUNK

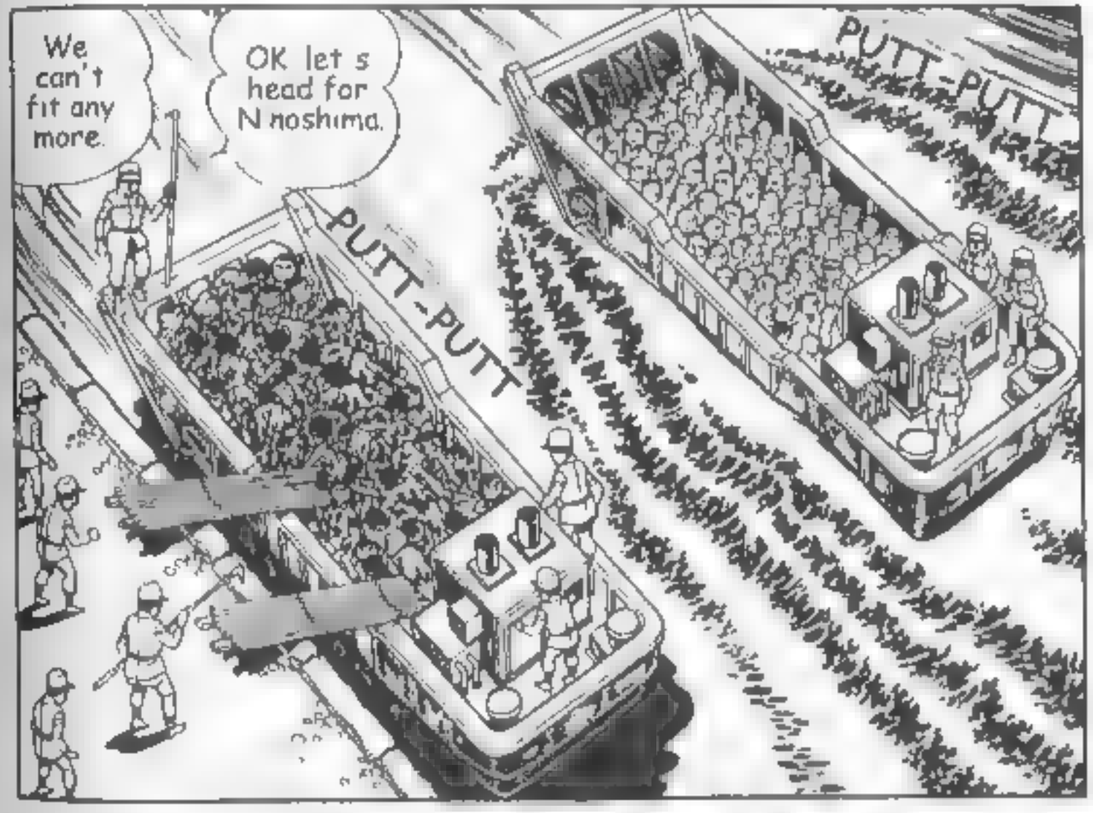
This work is endless The bodies just keep coming
Oof

RRRIP

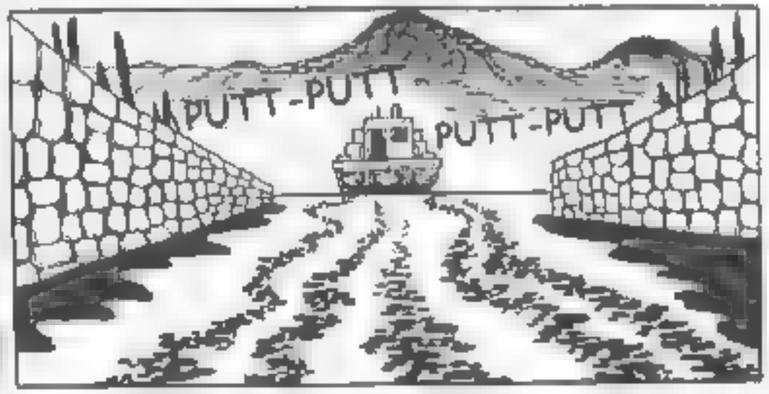
What can I do? You bare y touch 'em and the flesh comes right off the bone

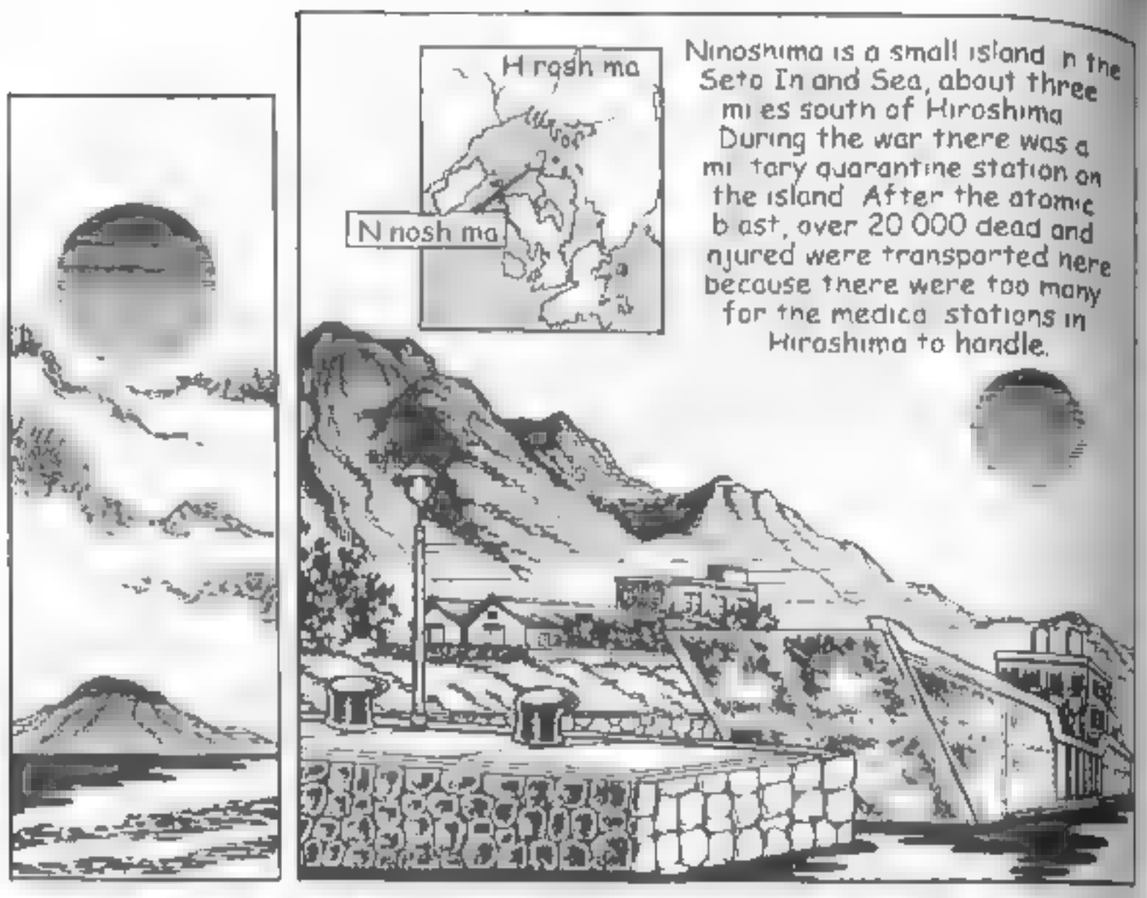

RATTLE


They're oading them like so many sacks of potatoes! But just a while ago they were living people laughing and crying.


We can't fit any more.
OK let s head for N noshima.
PUTT-PUTT
PUTT-PUTT

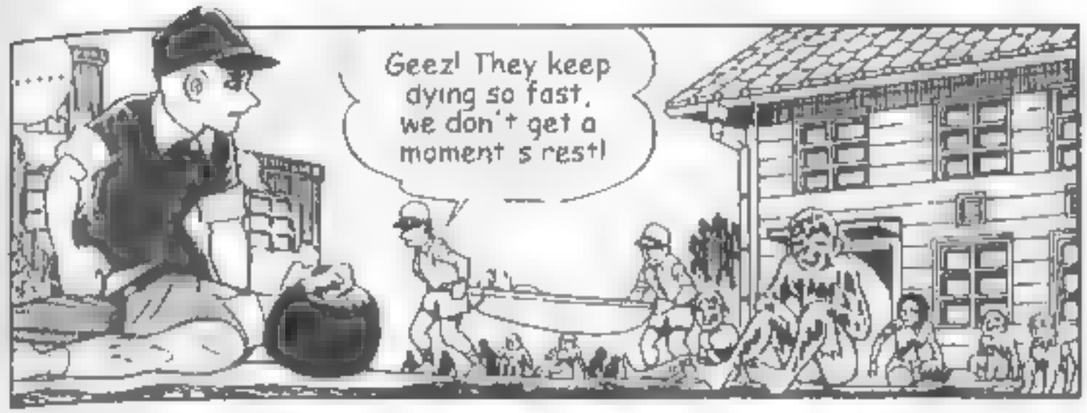
It's too much, it's just too much.


PUTT-PUTT
PUTT-PUTT


H roshi ma
N nosh ma
Ninoshima is a small island in the Seto Inland Sea, about three miles south of Hiroshima. During the war there was a military quarantine station on the island. After the atomic blast, over 20 000 dead and injured were transported here because there were too many for the medical stations in Hiroshima to handle.

Soldier please help me
Please give me water
Help me
Mommy Mommy
Groan

Medic, this man's dead. Get him out of here
Yes sir


Geez! They keep dying so fast, we don't get a moment's rest!

There's so many wounded people, they can't fit 'em all in this building. Why'd we even bother to come here?
I just wish they'd hurry up and treat you.

Gen... please, bring me some water
Water? Again?

Please Hurry
Well, all right -- but if I leave you alone, how do I know you won't try to kill yourself?

I-I won't do that
Are you sure? Because if you do I'll be real mad at you!

You promise Natsue?
I-I promise

All right. I'll go get some water for you. Wait here
.....

I-I'm sorry Gen

I'll never forget your kindness to me. never

Puff puff Natsue I've brought you some water

Oh!

S-she's gone. Where is she?

She headed toward the sea

Oh no! She lied to me after all !

Natsue! Natsue!

Where are you, Natsue?

Gasp

Huff

Puff

Oh, no!

I was afraid of this!

STOP!

Ah

You promised you won't try to kill yourself!

Please let me die! I don't want to live with a face like this

You fool! You fool!

Look at it this way. You tried to kill yourself twice. Now it's as if you're reborn.

.....

I couldn't stand it if you died, Natsue. It'd be like losing my sister, Eiko.

.....

You have a new chance to live! You've gotta hang in there!

Reborn. A new chance to live...?

So you can't be a dancer. Who cares! There are lots of other things you can do.

.....

Lots of other things to do...?

And you can eat all kinds of tasty food -- like sweet rice dumplings.

You're right, and I still have to look for my mother.

That's right!

I-I was so foolish. All I could think about was dying.

.....

I'm OK, Gen. I'll stay alive! I'll be strong!

That's more like it!

You never ever try to kill yourself again?

No, no. I promise.

I was thinking only about myself. But I know lots of people are dying no matter how much they want to live. I should be thankful I'm alive.

That's the spirit, Natsue! Hang in there.

T-thank you, Gen.

Gen, do you know the Cherry Blossom Song?

Uh, sort of...

If you sing it for me, I'll dance!

Ready?

Ulp! I'm not very good...

From somewhere afar ♪

Sweetly wafts the fragrance ♪

March sky is veiled in a spring haze ♫

of the cherry blossoms

Now let us

♪ go and see them

Pant pant

W was I good?

Yeah! You were great, Natsue!

.....

Sn ff

SOB.

W- what's wrong, Natsue?

Sob Today s the last day of my dream of becoming a dancer I'll never dance again

Th s must be so hard for her If it weren't for her burns she could've been a famous dancer

Sob

I-I know t's tough, Natsue but you ll make it I know you w l

Yes yes I w.ll I ll survive somehow, no matter what happens.

Natsue.

T, thanks Gen!

Hurry Let's get them to take care of your burns.

Y yeah

Natsue found the wil to live -- but was she rea ly better off surviving?

The keloid scars from the burns stayed w th her for the rest of her life. Natsue's life wou d be a hard one

People are dying faster than we can burn 'em

Man, I m beat

CLUNK CLANG

What're they d gging over there?

There's not enough t me to cremate all the bodies, so they re burying em .n a mass grave

A r ght, cover 'em up

Yes sir

. . .

. . . . .

Don't become one of them, Natsue You ve got to survive!

Y- yeah

I have to go back to H rosh ma now

My mother s waiting If I don't bring her some rice soon, my baby sister wi die

. . . . .

Hang in there, OK Natsue? Don't give up!

I-I (won't

See you in Hiroshima when you get better!

Y- yeah

Gen... You take care of yourself, too. I'll never forget your kindness. Never.....

Good-bye.

Good-bye, Natsue.

Goodbye triangle, square like tofu. Tofu is white, white like a rabbit. A rabbit hops, hops like a frog! A frog is green.

Puff puff

Gotta hurry, find some rice.

Go on, kid, get outta here!

....

C'mon, mister, can't you spare just a little rice to help my baby sister?

Forget it! We don't have enough to feed ourselves! Why would I give any rice to a complete stranger?!

Now scram! Shoo! Go away!

P-please, sir. I'll do anything if you give me some rice. Even just a little -- please!

I told you already -- No! Now leave, or I'll ladle this raw manure right on YOU!

What a cold-hearted old geezer! He won't even help a baby whose life is in danger.

Scram! I said!

You stingy old stinker!

All you cripples from Hiroshima are nothing but trouble. Coming to our island, trampling our fields.

Please ma am. P ease give me some rice

Didn't you hear me? No We don t have any rice Get out of here

Go or I' call the police!

.....

It's no use..

You ve got a lot of nerve sonny, asking for free handouts of r ce!

What makes you think we have any to spare? Go on, get out

Sn ff Nobody wil give me any rice

What 'll I do? What'll I do?!

Mama, te me What should I do?

WAH! WAH! WAH!

Damm t My s ster must be starving by now!

Somebody left a good s ck e here

Help! A thief

All r ght, mister! Hand over your rice

Those bastards If they won t g ve me any rice, I ,l do whatever I have to rob, stea , even kill

Order in the court!

All right, Taro you murdered someone so I sentence you to death by hara-kiri!

Death by hara-kiri, Your Honor?

That's right Hurry up!

Yes, sir

Aha!

HEH HEH

Who are you?

Er, ahem!

Don't you guys want to see a REAL hara-kiri?

Huh! Someone's really doing it? Where?

You wanna see?

Yeah

Yeah Me too

OK I'll show you a real hara-kiri but first everyone has to bring some rice here.

Rice?

Those who don't bring any rice can't watch

So who's gonna do the hara-kiri?

Me

I'll cut my own belly

You sure? You'll really cut it?

Yep, with this sickle Just watch!

He's crazy, isn't he?

Who cares, if he really does it

Yeah I wanna see this.

OK we'll bring some rice but you better really do it!

Don't worry Just bring plenty of rice!

Wait right there We'll be back with the rice

Hey, don't forget to bring a bag, too

We got it!

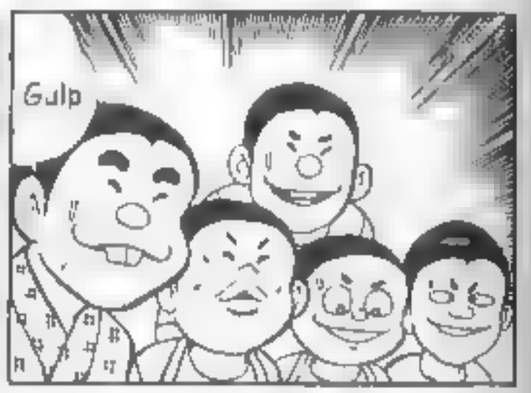
Yahoo!

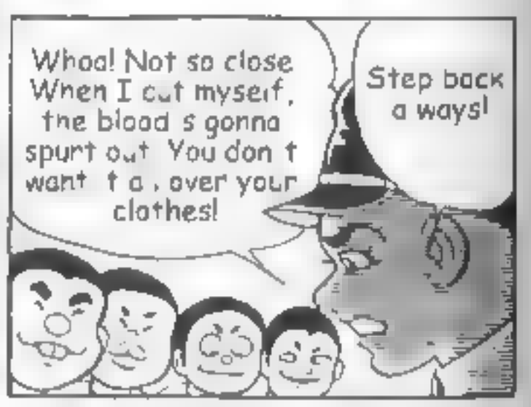
Hee hee Here they come!

Here we brought you the rice
Hurry up and do the hara-kiri
No need to rush

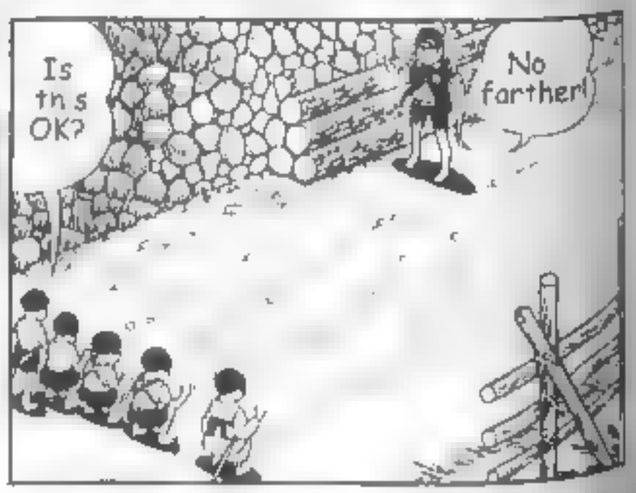
Wow, this must be a good four kilos of rice!

OK I shall now proceed to cut open my belly, so watch carefully


Gulp


Whoa! Not so close When I cut myself, the blood s gonna spurt out You don t want t o , over your clothes!
Step back a ways!

Is this far enough?
No No
Get waaay back!


Is th s OK?
No farther!

Hey, he's running away!
I'm outta here!
SCOOT

Hey he tricked us
Wait up!
Stop! Rice thief!

Sorry boys but I need this rice for my baby sister

Stop thief!
Catch him
Don t let him get away!

Huff puff

Ack!

SPLASH!

Aggh! What a stink!

Hey, he fell into a cess-pool!

Serves him right!

Help!!

Try and cheat us will you?

Take that!

Owww!

Hit him!

Sob It's no use, I can never get away with anything!

Grab the rice

Right!

Wait! Let me have it Please!

Shut up! If you try to cheat us again, you'll be sorry

....

Haw haw! Stew in that juice for a while shithead!

Yahh! Serves you right!

Sob Rice I need rice

Waah! I need rice

Somebody anybody, give me some rice. Help my little sister

Please Someone help her.

Sob Sniff

What' I do? I didn't know people could be so mean If it weren't for that damn bomb I wouldn't be in this f.x

SOB SNIFFLE SOB

I-I can't waste my time crying like this I've got to f nd some rice!

I' try and ask someone again

Th s body must ve floated al the way here from H rosh ma

And the crabs are eat ng what's left of it!

Scram you parasites Leave him alone!

Stupid crabs..

Ha ha ha!

Ha ha!

Gab gab

Blab b ab

..

Look at them, having a nice d nner together They re so lucky ..

Hey Daddy Let's p ay sumo!

Sure, son I take you on!

Beat him bro!

I'll get you Daddy!

Yay! Beat h m, Gen!

I'l get you, Papa!

HEY-HOI PLINKETY PLINK!

There was a w fe who loved her husband, and he adored h s wife

HA HA HA HA!

HA HA HA!

What a happy family We were like that too, just a wh le ago

HEE HEE HEE!

But now just because we lived in Hirosh.ma my family s gone.

Sob

Moan

Hey, who's there?

Er heh heh Good evening s r

What do you want?

Do you like old folk ba ads?

Sure, I like 'em a lot Why?

Well, I'll s ng one for you if you g ve me some rice

You? Sing a ba ad?!

Yess r, I m pretty good, so please give me a chance

Fair enough If you re no good, I won't give you a thing

But f you're rea ly good, you l get your rice!

R-really, sir? You promise?

What are you saying, dear? We can't spare any rice

Relax We'll just sten to him and tell him he's no good

That way we get a little free enter-tainment!

Oooh, you're too clever dear!

Go ahead sonny!

I w ll now s ng "The M racle of Tsubo-saka"

AHEM!

There was a wife who loved her husband, and he adored his wife

♪

Hey-ho!

Now one ♪ fine day in the middle of June. ♪

Hey-ho! ♪

It was hot way out in the country-side. ♪

Hey-ho! Pinkety-plink! ♪

But cool deep in the woods. ♪

Walk more slowly, Sawaichi, you know you can't see well

OK OK!

Shinji Shinji

.....

.....

Hey-ho, hey-ho

Remembering the happy days when he performed the same song with Shinji, Gen sang with all his heart. His voice rose and fell like the tide, moving the hearts of all who listened

T-that's all... I'm done.

.....

.....

Y-yes, dear Sniffle

Go bring him some rice

A promise is a promise. Here's your rice!

THUD!

R-really, sir? You'll let me take it?!

Rice I finally got some r ce

T-thank you, s·r! Thank you, ma am!

Come back and sing for us again Next time we'l get the whole vi lage to come l sten

Hey, you're pretty good I was surprised!

Yeah, me too!

.....

Look Mama I finally got some r ce!

Just wa t a l ttle longer I ll be back soon!

Hurrah! Hurrah

I did it Mama, I d d it!

Everyth.ng s gonna be all right now!

I ll be back in no time!

Oh the moon comes up
and the sun goes down
The ocean stretches
the whole world round

瀬戸丸

7

Knock knock knock it's your
ne ghbor at the door
Always ask ng favors, 'cause
what's a ne ghbor for

Po-po-potato,
Sweet potato
Hey!

Don't get so
excited you fal
into the sea, kid

PUTT-PUTT-PUTT

Oh, we re children of the
waves born by the tide
In the piney woods down
by the seas de

Here comes a bandit
with his big long spear
He pokes an o d lady
in her big fat rear

Hey m ster,
can t you make
th s boat go
any faster?

Hah! You shou d
just be thankful
you re getting a
free ride!

I want to hurry
back to my mom
in Hiroshima and
give this rice to
her

I hear a new fang ed bomb was dropped on Hirosh ma boy They say noth ng w ll grow there for the next sixty years

Sixty years!?

It s horr ble Hiroshima's been turned into a graveyard

W-what wi happen to my fami y? I'm scared.

I have to find my sister in H roshima She married a man there I'm worried about her I hope she's alive

That's Hiro-shima!

Look!

What s that smoke?

They re burning bodies

Hard to be eve The only thing moving there s the smoke from burning bodies

Just three days ago it was such a l vely town

Look, Mama! I've brought you some rice!

PUTT-PUTT-PUTT

PUTT-PUTT

PUTT-PUTT

Thanks mister

Sure

Gotta hurry

I can't wait to see Mama Boy, w ll she be glad

Oh when I get o der
I wanna be a sold er
With a sword and a horse
And lots of medals of course
Hupi Hup G ddy-up

.....

BAM BAM

Genk ch , M yo Come to G on-cho

Eizo and Hanayo We are in Eba

Taro Kunio, Akiko, Yasuko Mother s with our relatives in Itsukaichi

Daisuke, Jiro, Yuk ko Father and Mother are with re atives n Kabe Come qu ckly

Let's go dear Cheer up -- if our k ds are a ive they'l see this s gn and come looking for us

It's no use waiting for them here We've a ready looked al over for them.

Sob

Hmm Everyone's putting up s gns to tell their fami es where they are

I should put one up too

My brothers m ght come looking for us

Ko,i Akira hurry up and come back!

I wish they were here. I'm lonely

Wha-?!

SMASH

BAM BAM

CRACK

What's that lady doing? Looks like she's smashing a skull

BAM BAM BAM BAM

What a weird thing to do

Groan

This'll make you feel better soon, Kozo so be patient

SPRINKLE

Now swallow this

COUGH COUGH

T-that's awful -- she's feeding him powdered bones!

Uh Ma'am how come you're giving him powdered bones? Is that really good for him?

Mind your own business, boy

Putting human bone powder on burns makes them heal

And if you swallow it, it'll keep you from dying

No that's not true That's just a superstition!

Hush, boy! Lots of people have been saved this way!

Here, you should take some too It'll keep you from getting sick

Ugh! N-no thanks!

Well suit yourself I was just trying to help you

Even if it is a superstition I'll believe in it if it heals my son's burns

SPRINKLE

That woman's doing the same thing

People sure come up w th some weird ideas.

They'll believe anyth ng if they think it w ll save their loved ones

I wonder who started this story about the powdered bones ?

ROAR

It's a B-29

It s f y ng ow, so the war must stil be going on

ROAR

You idiots! What are you here for?

There's noth ng left in Hiroshima for you to bomb!

/u tures! D d you come ust to take a look at a the dead people here?

Yankee bastards! Come down here and I' show you a thing or two!

Give me back my father and Eiko, and Shinji!

G ve me back my home!

Yankee bas-tards

Pant pant

Damn you Damn you Damn you

Your b g brother Gen is ate, isn t he.

How far did he have to go to get some rice? I m worr ed

GOO GOO

THUD

G Gen!

I'm back, Mama! Here, I brought you some rice!

Gen You had me so worried! You've been gone two whole days..

.....

M-Mama!

Sob It was so hard, Mama It was so hard to find any rice

Gen

T-thank you, Gen. Thank you for the rice. .

G Gen

W-what happened to your hair? You're bald

Sniff I don't know It just fell out all of a sudden.

Y-you aren't suffering from pain or anything, are you, Gen?

N-no I feel fine, Mama.

Are you sure, Gen? Don't lie to me now!

I'm fine, Mama Really!

Oh Gen Please, please don't die If I lost you too, I'd go mad

I won't die, Mama! I promise!

But I wonder why you lost all your hair

Luckily I got a hold of some good medicine!

Take this. It'll keep you from getting sick.

Here you go
OK Mama

Gulp

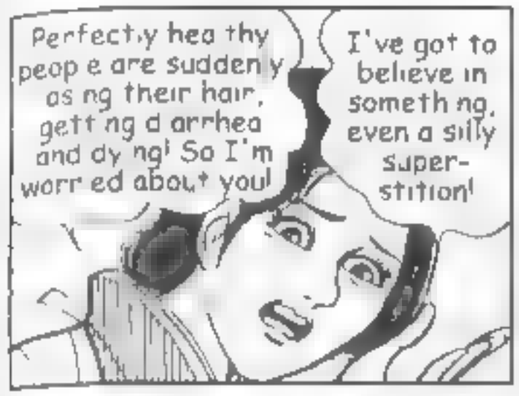
Yuck! This tastes terrible

N-no It can't be ?!

M-Mama. That wasn't bone powder, was it?
Why, yes. How did you know?

Gag!

Barf Gasp How could YOU believe that stupid superstition too?!
I'll believe anything if it keeps you from getting sick.


Perfectly healthy people are suddenly losing their hair, getting diarrhea and dying! So I'm worried about you!
I've got to believe in something, even a silly superstition!

.....

I-I'm sorry, Mama I didn't know how you felt

Phew! It sure tasted awful though!

How's the baby, Mama?
She's OK. A very kind woman has been nursing her for me.

GOO GOO

Hey, Sis! I was worried about you
GAH GOO

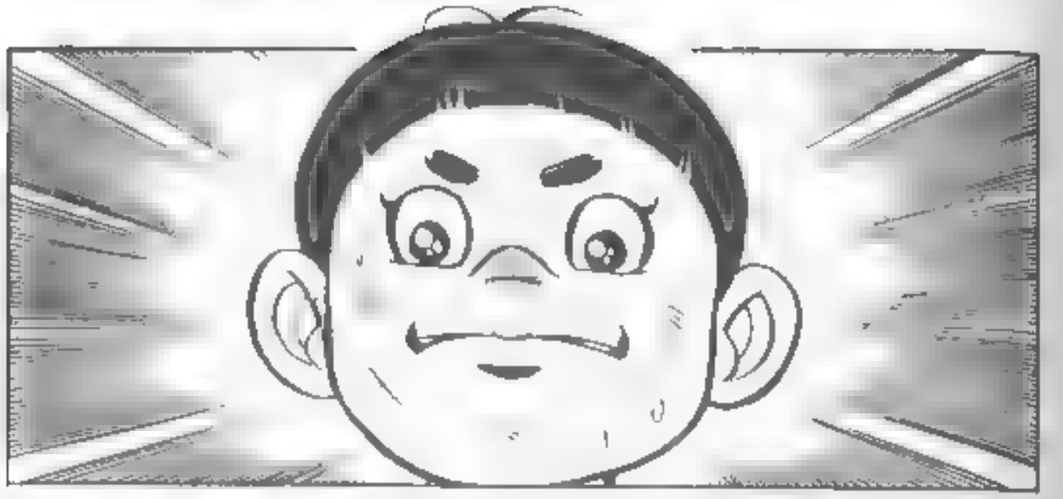
Hee hee. I'm so glad you're OK!
GOO GOO

You must be hungry, Gen. I'll cook some of this rice for you
Oh boy

Where did you get all these pots and pans, Mama?
I found them here and there in the ruins

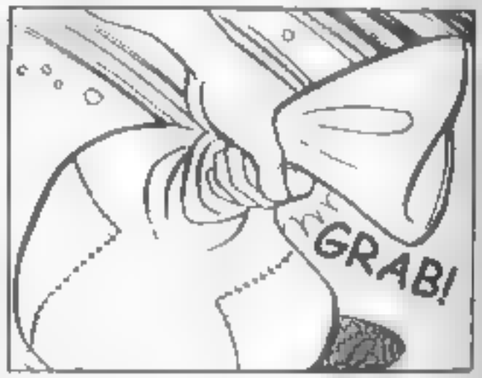
Eat your fill, Gen. We only have salt to put on it, though
YOU eat lots too, Mama, so you can nurse the baby!
Wow! A whole bowl of pure rice!
I feel like I'm dreaming
MUNCH
Mmm! It tastes so good I can't stand it!!
I'll eat it one grain at a time to make it last...
Gee, Mama, I wish Eiko and Shinji were here to eat this, too
I-I know.

WAAH! Mama! Gen stole one of my grains of rice!
If I could eat a whole bowl of rice I could be happy!
.....
Sob
Gasp
No!!
It can't be!



SHINJI!
S-Shinji... You're alive? But

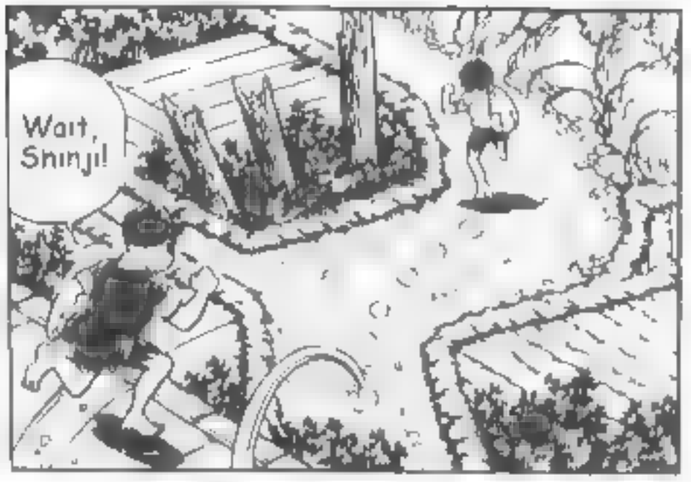
Hehheh


GRAB!

Shinji wait!
Shinji where are you going?!

I-I must be dreaming B but that IS Shinji

Hurry Gen Bring him back!
He must have run off with our rice as a joke!


Wait, Shinji!

Yahoo He's alive!
I can't believe it! He's alive!

Hey, Shinji! Stop!

Pant Pant
.....

He must be hiding in this air raid shelter!

Hey Shinji come on out!

Where are you, Shinji?

We'll play hide and seek tomorrow. Stop kidding and come out

BONK!

WHACK!

WHAM!

Oww

THUD

DRIP DRIP

Is he out?

Yeah, I think so

Let's have some light!

FLASH

What a pest! He followed me all the way here!

All right, men! I've got some food for you. A whole bag of rice!

Yee-haw!

What are we going to do with him?

Hah! Just bury him somewhere

Bury h m huh?

Yeah st ck him n a ho e somewhere!

Ten-shun!

SNAP!

All hail Food Commander Ryuta!

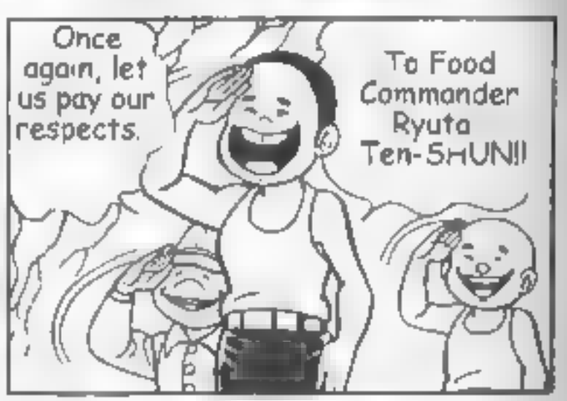
Ahem

Kaff kaff
At ease, men!

I am happy to report the procurement of this fine bag of rice today.
This should keep us going for a while

Thank you for your great efforts, Food Commander
We are grateful as always, sir, heh heh!

We never cease to be impressed by your food procurement abilities, Commander! Ha ha!
Hmph


Once again, let us pay our respects.
To Food Commander Ryuta Ten-SHUN!!

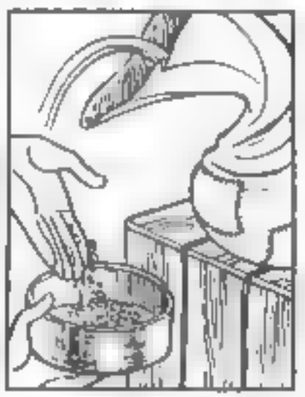
Thankew thankew

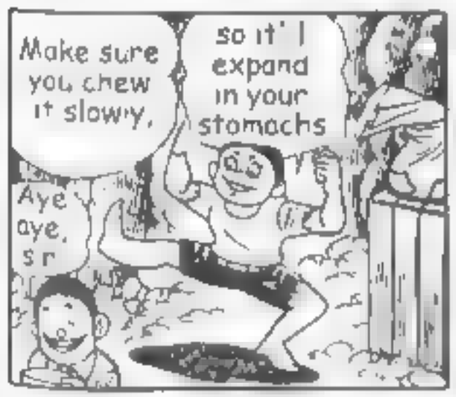
Well men, I expect you're all a little hungry
Rations will now be distributed
Hurran!
Hurran

Dinner-time! Dinner-time!
BANG BANG
Everyone line up!

Is. is this ALL ?!

Don't complain, stupid! If we eat it all at once, what will we eat tomorrow?
Heh heh Guess you're right, Ryuta




Make sure you chew it slowly.
so it' l expand in your stomachs
Aye aye, sr

MUNCH MUNCH
CRUNCH CRUNCH

Heh heh! Rice always tastes good
MUNCH
Yeah!

TROMP TROMP

Hey, you guys

Acorn is back from his scouting mission!

Find anything, Acorn?

Sure did!

Great news! They're going to be passing out rice balls soon

Rice balls? Really?!

Banzai

Yahoo! Rice balls! We can save this uncooked rice for later!

Carrot take the basket.

Onion, you take the pot!

Aye aye!

Yessir!

All set?

Ready for battle, sir

Vroomm! Vroomm!

Charge! Don't let 'em get away!

Yay!

TROMP TROMP

Yahoo!

PLINK

SPLOSH

Groan.

Hun? W-where am I?!

Now I remember I chased Shinji in here and then something hit me!

Wha-?

Look what he did to the rice -- and after all the trouble I went through to get it!

Where is that numbskull?

Shinji! Shinji!

Where are you? Come out!

Free rice balls compliments of the Ladies Aid Society!

Come and get them

Free rice balls here!

There they are!

We better hurry before they run out!

Let's go!

Yay!

Hurry!

SCRAPE

Cheer up ma'am! These should help a little

PLOP

Thank you soldier

Give me lots mister! There's seven in my family

Ten in mine!

Ten in mine too!

Here you go, boys. Stay healthy!

SCRAPE

PLOP

Hee hee! Look at all these beautiful rice balls!

Yeah, I'm so happy I almost wet my pants

They even toasted these rice balls so they won't go bad right away

Yeah! Those Ladies Aid ladies sure are nice!

Hey mister, when are you coming next?

We're out of rice so there might not be a next time You'll just have to hang in there, boys

Hear that, men? We better take our time eating these

Yessir, yessir, we heard about it! No sir, no sir, you know we don't doubt it!

Well, let's head home and eat up

Yessir, yessir!

Left right! Left, right I left my wife with seventeen kids Nothing in the cupboard but old rice balls

Left right! Left, right!

No!

Ack!

Wha-?!

Shinji!

Uh oh. He's come to!

We should've buried him right away

Damn! He's mad as hell because I stole his rice Battle positions, everyone!

Right!

Ha ha! I won't let you get away this time, Shinji

Here he comes

Hit him in the balls Acorn!

Right!

Bite his leg, Shimpei!

Right!

Carrot, you bite his butt!

Right

Onion his arm!

Right!

Give 'im your best shot!

Right!

Shinji!

Yikes

Kamikaze crotch attack!

Aieee! What're you doing? Stop it!

Shut up! We'll teach you to mess with us

Get him

Yeow! CHOMP

OWWW! Stop Cut it out!

Take this, you pest! Go to hell

WHAM!

Urk!

Oww...

Shinji! W-why are you hitting me?

D-don't you remember me? I'm your brother Gen. Have you forgotten?!

A-aren't you angry cause I took your rice ?

You've got it all wrong, Shinji. Mama and I have been worried sick about you. C'mon, let's go home

Shut up! Stop calling me "Shinji"!

I'm not Shinji!

I'm Ryuta Ryuta Kondo

And I don't have a brother like you!

No That's not true

You're Shinji! Admit it!

You're just kidding around with me right?

Hee hee! I'm so glad you're alive, Shinji.

Ack! Stop! It tickles!

You must be crazy Go away!

You're the one who's crazy, Shinji! You must've forgotten everything because of the shock from the bomb and the fire!

Sob
Shinji please,
you've got to
remember me.

GASP

Heh heh
Look at
that --
he's crying!

CRY
BABY!

Shinji, don't you
remember a , the
th ngs we did together?
Begging sing ng songs ?

Shut up
My family
was just
Mom, Dad
and me.

I ve never
seen you
before!

M, my
mom and
dad were

T they
were

What're
you doing
Ryuta?

Shhh
Don t move!
I m go ng to
catch this
b g cicada!

FLASH

Oww

Groan
P Papa!
Mama!

Naaa!
Papa!!

Papa!
Papa!

R-
Ryuta
Ryuta

Wha-?!

Oh, no!
Mama!!

Groan R-Ryuta
You're not hurt, are
you? I-I'm glad

The house
is on f re,
Mama
Let's run!

I-I can't move,
Ryuta My
legs have been
torn off

Ryuta you
have to escape
by yourself
Understand?

No!
I can t
Mama!

Hurry run!
At least one of
us will surv ve!

No,
Mama!
No

Run
I
sa d!

Waah!
Mama
Mama!

Run!
Run!

You ve got to
be brave son
Now run
Hurry

Sob

My mom dad, and a l my
relatives were kil ed I m
alone. Jnderstand? I'm
not Shin !

All of my
pals here
are orphans
too

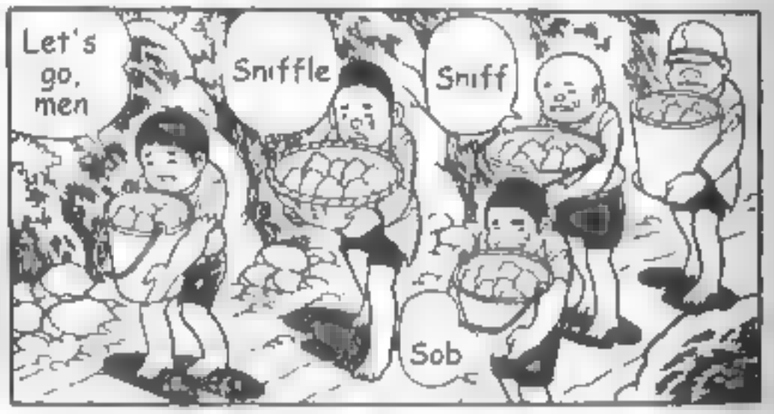
.....

Papa! Mama! J ra! Ke ka!

My whole family was killed when our house co lapsed
Mine too.

See, I m not Shinji! So stop fo lowing me around!
.....

We survive by sticking together so don t get in our way!


Let's go, men
Sniffle
Sniff
Sob

Hey what's the matter? C'mon, et s s ng a song
YEAH!

Left, r ght! Left, r ght! I left my wife with seventeen k ds

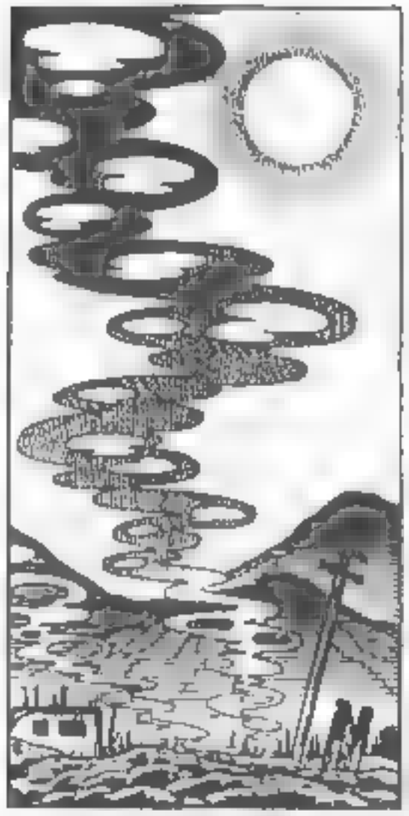
Nothing in the cupboard but old rice ba ls Left, r ght Left, r ght
.....

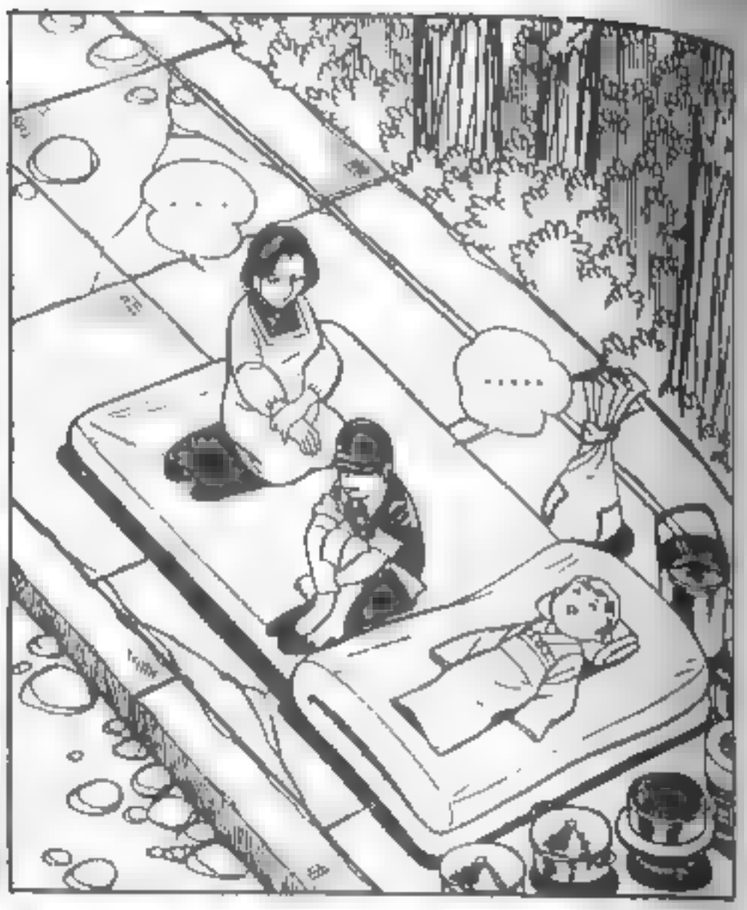
N- no

No!

It s not true!
It's a ie!

Waaah! That's Shinji! It s got to be!





So he wasn t Shinji after all . His name is Ryuta ?

They say everyone n the world has at least four doubles That boy certainly looked just ke Sh nj .

I know it s hard to accept, Gen, but Sh nji s dead You've got to g ve up th nking he's alive.
No! No! I won't give up!!

He IS Sh n I make h m admit that he s!
Poor Gen. He really bel eves that boy is Shinji

We can't stay here forever, Gen.
I know someone in Eba. Let s go there

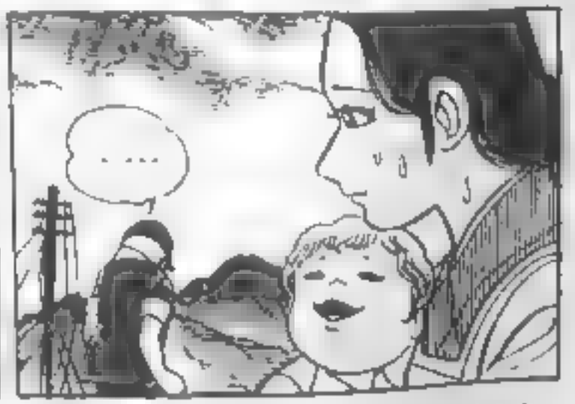
A re - at ve?
No she s a friend of mine

All of your father s relatives and mine were in Hiroshima They may a be dead

Koji and Akira haven t come back yet Let s put up a sign where the house was, and go to Eba.

To Koji and Akira Mother and Gen are in Eba.

I'll go find some wood for the sign, Mama
Thank you, Gen.



BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

.....

BAM BAM BAM BAM

Mr Mr Pak

BAM BAM BAM

Hur-ran! It's Mr Pak!

BAM BAM BAM

D d you find your father Mr Pak?

BAM BAM BAM

Mr Pak! What're you making?

Mr Pak ?

Gasp!

W-what a nasty look! What s the matter with him?!

BAM BAM BAM

Mr Mr Pak?

No! Get away from me!

Ack!

W-what's the matter Mr Pak?

I hate them I hate the Japanese!

Why are you so angry, Mr. Pak? Did you find your father?

Yes, I found him.

W-was he dead ?

He was killed.

K-killed?

My father was killed because he was Korean!

W-why? What happened?

.....

F-Father You survived the blast! Thank heaven!

Aigo. Aigo.

I can't stand it any longer

Hold on, Father I'll take you to the medical station

Groan

Don't give up, Father Please don't die!

Moan.

Agh

Please, Doctor. Please examine my father

Aigo

Aigo

A Korean en?

We've been waiting over five hours Please help him

I don't have time to treat Koreans You'll have to wait!

W-what?!

Doctor, we were forced to come to Japan. Yet we've fought right alongside you in this war. We've worked as hard as you for this country! Why won't you treat my father?!

Shut up!

We treat our own f rst Koreans come later We don't have enough medicine anyway Stop complain ng!

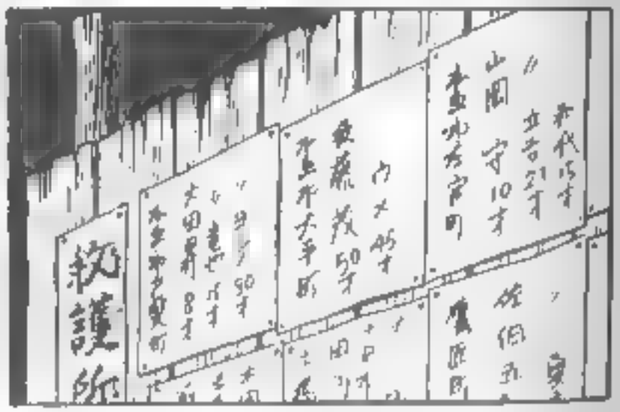
.....

Y-you d even discriminate against the wounded and dying ?!

Moan

A-are you n pain Father? Ho d on, ho d on

Damn them we'll go to another medica station



Please, Doctor, help my father

A Korean..?

Sign Medical Station Morta ty List

Please sir, he needs treatment now

All right All right Later

I'm too busy to treat any Koreans right now

.....

Bastards! It s the same here, too!

GASP! AAGHH!

F-Father!

Father!

Even if he was beyond help, they should have treated h m like a human being! I only wanted him to d e with some dignity!

.....

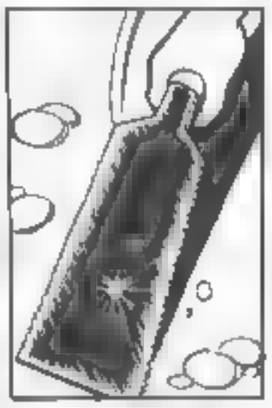
How low do the Japanese have to make us feel ?!

And that s not all They just leave the bodies of dead Koreans where they are like so much garbage...

The Japanese don't think of us as human I'll never forget the way they've treated us
.....

At least I can give my father a decent coffin to be cremated in
I-is that his coffin you re building?

.....
BAM BAM BAM



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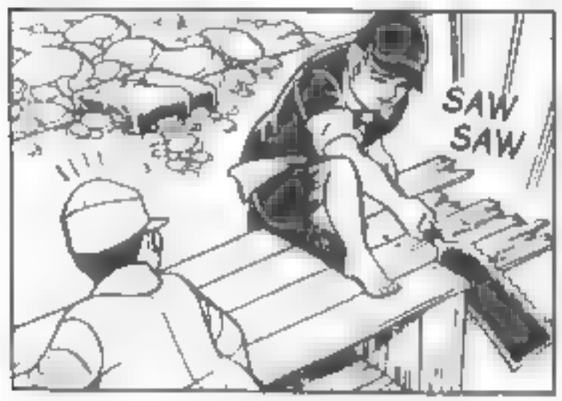
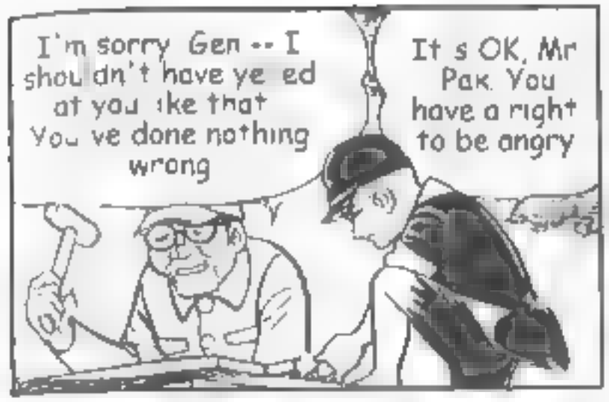

SAW SAW

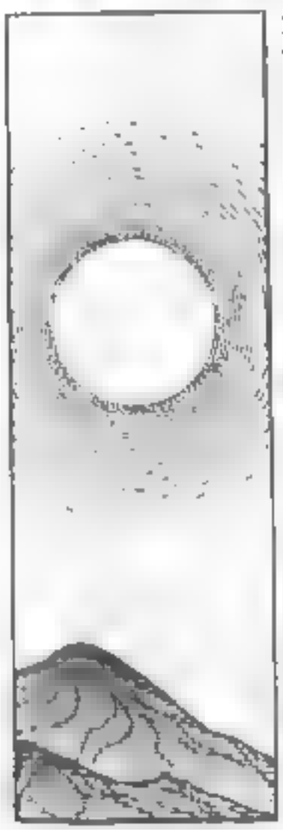
SAW SAW

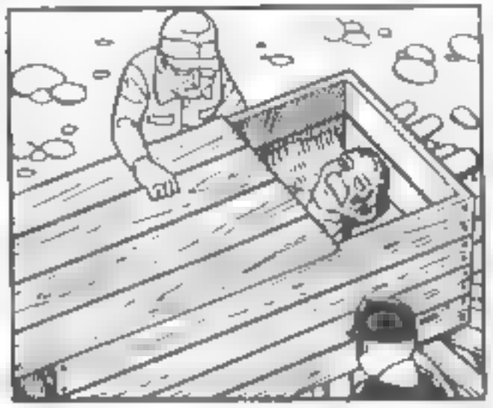

I'm sorry Gen -- I shouldn't have yelled at you like that You've done nothing wrong
It s OK, Mr Pak. You have a right to be angry

When I grow up, Mr Pak, I won't treat Koreans like that I promise!

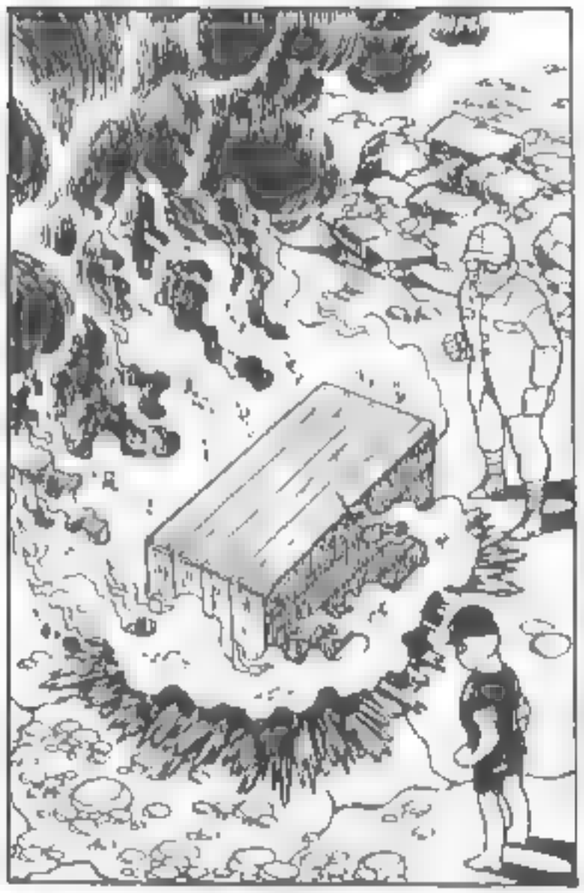
Hang in there Mr Pak!
T-thanks Gen.

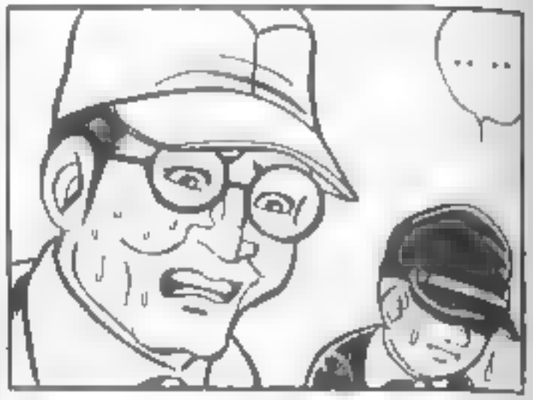
BAM BAM
SAW SAW





Have a safe journey home, Father, and rest in peace..

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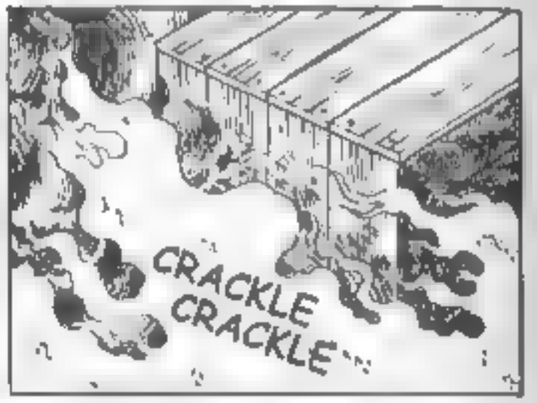

CRACKLE
CRACKLE

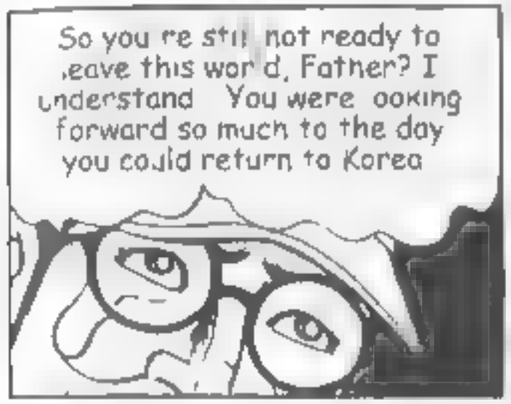
CREAAKKK
CREAAKKK

BANG!
Ack!

The coff n burst open from the heat

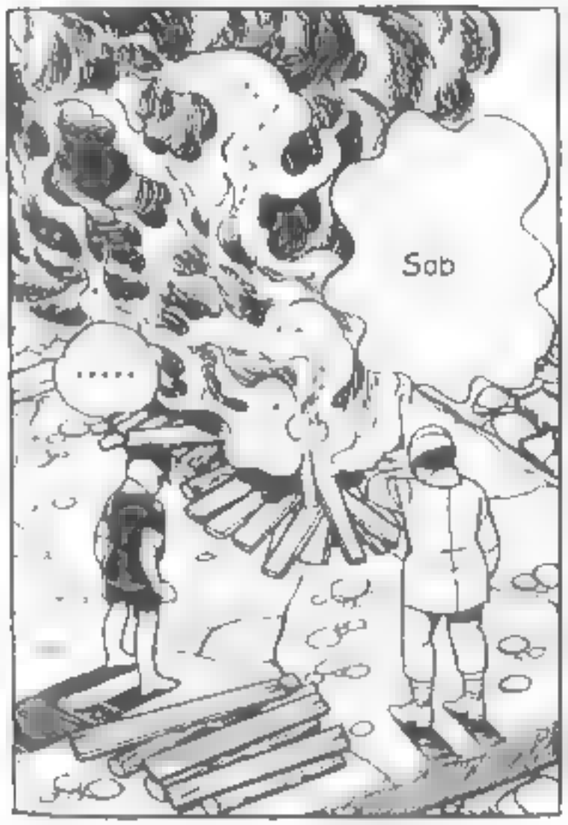
Oh no!

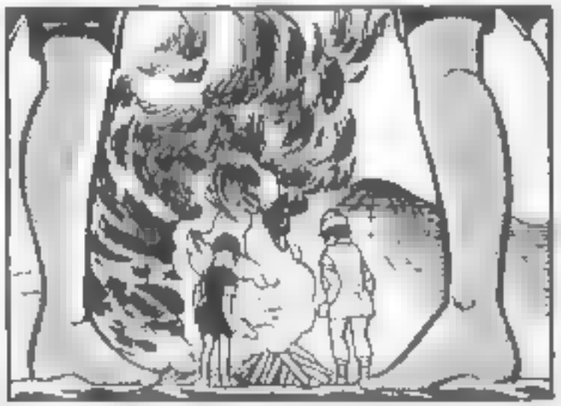
H-his body s rearing up -- just l ke a fish on a grill !


So you re stil not ready to leave this wor d, Father? I understand You were ooking forward so much to the day you could return to Korea

. . .

ROAR


Sob
. . . . .



Look Ryuta, it s him!
What's he doing w th that Korean? Let's have a ittle fun with him

You mustn't be mean to Koreans They eat and shit the same as me and you! So what's so different about 'em? Maybe it's their funny pointy shoes!

.....

Yaaah! Whatcha cook n ? Yams I bet! Hey, gimme some too

Why, that little

.....

Yikes!

You litt e punk!

Owww!

BONK

H-hey, what was that for?!

Have you forgotten what Papa told us, Sh nj ?

I don t ever want to hear you make fun of Koreans!

The government tries to get us to f ght their wars by te ing us the Koreans and Chinese are weak and stupid Don't be foo ed by their l es You shou d respect everyone no matter where they come from!

So what are you making fun of Koreans for Sh nj ?!

Don t ever do it again you hear me?!

OW-OW-OW!!

I'm not Sh nji I'm Ryuta! Cut it out already!!

Urk

I'll get even with you yet!

YAAH! STUPID BALDY! BED-WETTER!

W-wasn't that Shinj ? Is he st ll a ve?!

He says he s not Sh nji -- but I know he is!

H he ooks just like Sh nji. I can't believe t I was sure he died in the f re

My husband my chi dren.

It's no use Ma am!!

Have you dug up the bones of your fam ly, Gen?

.....

You should dig them up as soon as you can. They must be cry ng to be taken out from under the rubble.

Stop t, Mr Pak! Sh nj , E ko and Papa are still alive!

They re alive!

G Gen.

I don't like you, Mr Pak!

Gen. I shouldn t have sa d that to you

Everybody wants to be eve h s family is alive

Let's both be strong, Gen. Let's not give up

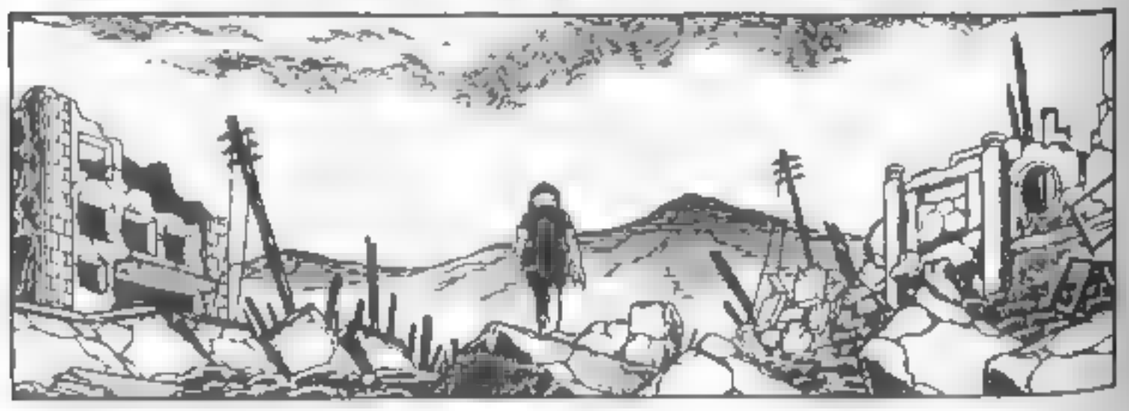
I become stronger Just watch.

.....

Pant pant

Mr Mr Pak was right
I've got to go look for their bones

If I find their bones, I'll know for sure if Shinji's dead or alive.
I'll go to where our house was and dig them up now!



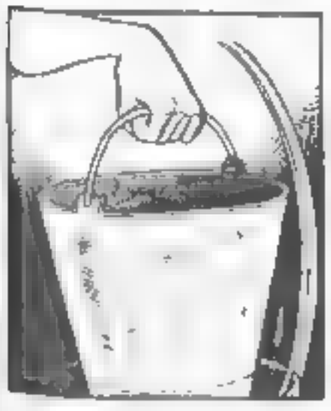
Up you go!
Weren't we lucky to find this abandoned cart

Well I've loaded all our belongings
We're ready to go to Eba now

.....

Gen, have you put up the sign for Koji and Akira?
We have to tell them that we're going to stay with the Hayashis in Eba
No, not yet

Go put it up, so we can leave right away
Yes, Mama



Gen, . What are you going to do with the bucket?
I'm going to get the bones

Bones .?
Whose bones ?!

Papa Eiko and Shinji's bones, of course!

W-what!

Stop, Gen!

T-there aren't any bones! Everyone's still alive!

Isn't that right Gen?

What's the matter, Mama? You're the one who said I should give up hoping they're alive.

I I can't face it

I don't want to see their bones

To know they're really dead. To lose all hope of ever seeing them again. I-I'm afraid.

M Mama.

Gen let's not do it now

No Mama! I have to! If their bones really are buried there, they must be crying to be dug up!

I can't leave them like that

I I did them up now

P please don't do it, Gen.

I have to know whether that boy Ryuta is really Shinji or not. I don't want to keep hanging on to false hopes

G Gen

.....

This is where my house was

Papa s paint boxes are all warped from the heat

T-th s s where they were trapped under the house

Here under this rubble

.....

H-he p me Gen! I'm burn ng! Help me!

I-it nurts

Hurry, Gen Take your mother and run, before you get caught in the f re!

Go now, Gen! Take care of your mother!

Y-yes, Papa

D-dear

Gen! Are you runn ng away? You rat! You rat!

You said you d sa l my battleship on the r ver with me! You prom sed

Get me out of here Gen!

I can't, Shinji The beam s too heavy, t won t budge

Here Shinji, I brought your battleship Ho d it tight!

Sob

Does my batt eship go rea, fast Gen?

S sure it does Shinj It's the fastest in Japan!

Mother! It nurts !

Gen, don't just stand there! Run!

ROARRR

GEN!

.....

D damn it

CLINK

KACHUNK

Please don't be here

If your bones aren t here, you're still a ive!

CHUNK

Please don't be here!

Ah!

It s it's the batt eship I gave Shinj

CLUNK

Pant pant I I can't d g anymore

I don't want to find the r bones

Sob . Damn it damn t

It's no use, I've got to keep digging. I've got to know the truth!

I've got to

KACHUNK

Aiee!

SHIVER

T-they're here.

Th s m-must be Shinji

.....

Dammit

DAMN! DAMN! DAMN!

NO!

T-this b g one s Papa.

And this is Eiko

Wow! Look at all the locusts Gen!
Gen, let s race to the field!
Be strong Gen, no matter how many times you're stepped on Just like wheat

Sob

T-they're rea ly dead Shinji E ka Papa.

They're not alive anymore.

浩二あんちゃん
昭、あんちゃん
元とおかあちゃん
江波の林さんの家だ

To Koji and Akira Mother and Gen are at the Hayash s in Ebo

You've changed you've all changed

SCRAPE

RATTLE

RATTLE

.....

.....

Hey, you! You had some nerve hitting me ke that Now you're gonna pay for it!

.....

Hey, wait! You chicken or some-thing?

Get him, boys! Don't let him run away!

YEAH! YEAH!

Here! This s what you get for hitting Ryuta!

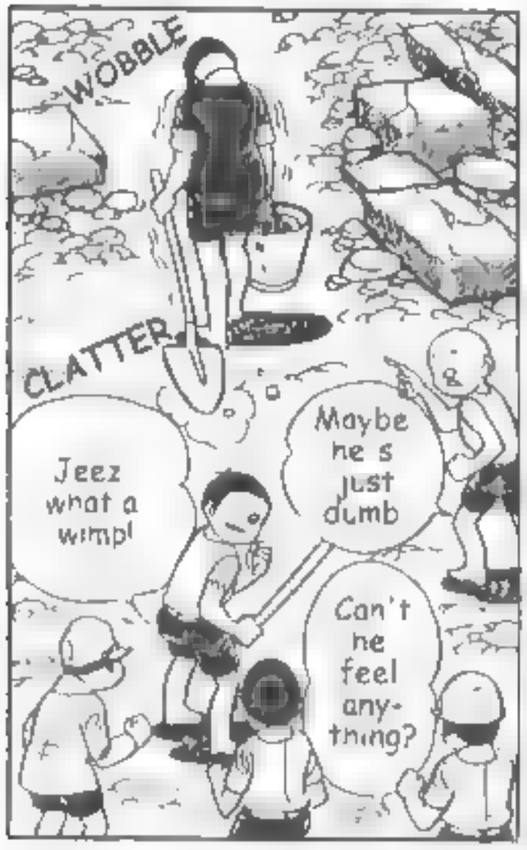
BONK!

Yeah This'll teach you to mess w th our Food Commander

Grrrl!
CHOMP!

Take that!
BONK!

. . ...
Hey! What's the matter? C mon and fight

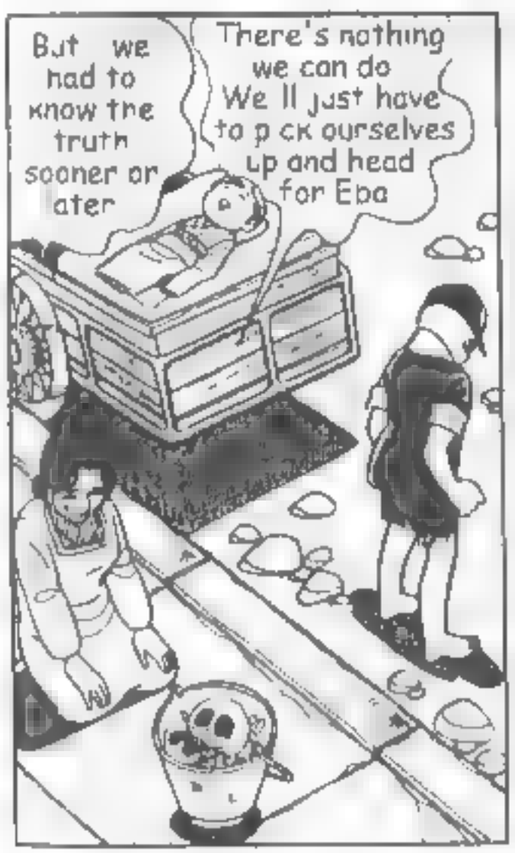

WOBBLE
CLATTER
Jeez what a wimp!
Maybe he s just dumb
Can't he feel any-thing?

Idiot! Baldy! Don t ever ta k big to me aga n! You hear?!

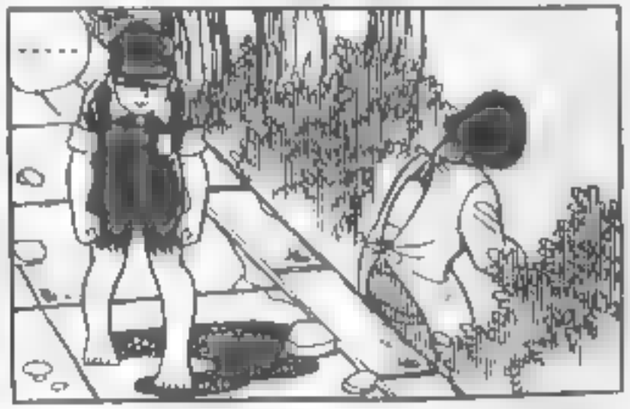
Hmph That's weird -- first he keeps ca l ng me Shinji, and now he won t even look at me.
What a creep

.....
.....

All .all our hopes are gone now, Gen
We know they re rea ly dead
.....


But we had to know the truth sooner or later
There's nothing we can do We ll just have to p ck ourselves up and head for Eba

I forgot someth ng down here Gen I ll go get it


.....

.....

I wonder what's taking Mama so long ?

Ah!

Sob Sob Sob

Sob Sob Sob.

M Mama.

Oh, my dear husband I want to die, too

I don t want to go on living I don't care any longer

N-no!

WAAAH!!

I'm sorry, Mama I shou dn't have dug up their bones! Please don't die, Mama!

G Gen

SOB, WAIL SOB

Oh, Gen!

Mama! Mama

Sob Sob

Sob Sniff

I I won't d e, Gen How could I leave my children a one? I haven't forgotten what your father told me

You ve got to survive Kimie! For the sake of the child you re carry ng -- and for Gen, and for Koji and Akira when they return! You've got to be there for them!

Sniff

I'm sorry, Gen I just fe t so over-whelmed

Let's go to Eba

It will do us good to go somewhere far from these bad memor es!

We'll be al right, Gen Cheer up, now

Y-yeah, you too Mama.

Are you OK Gen?

Nothing to t Mama!

HEAVE-HO! HEAVE-HO!

We'll have to start a over in Eba I must be strong

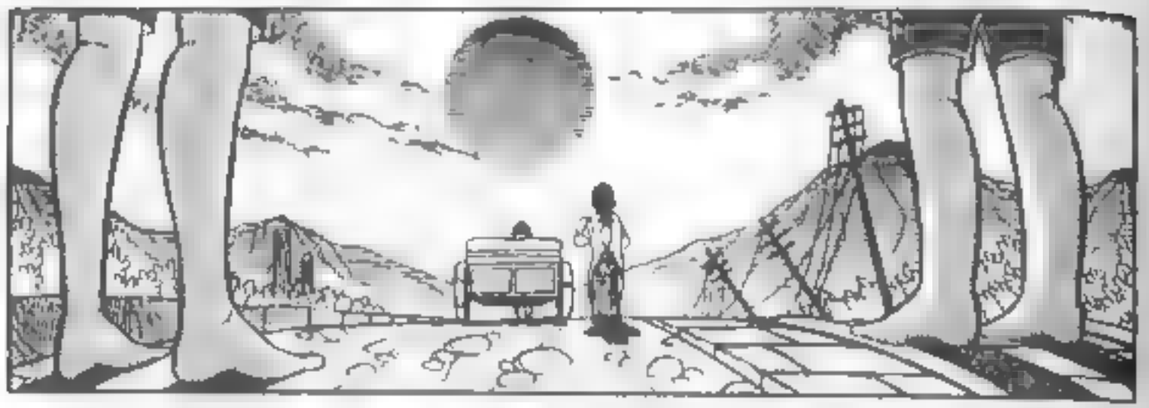
RATTLE RATTLE

Papa E ko, Shinji From now on we'll always be together I'll take you to Eba with us

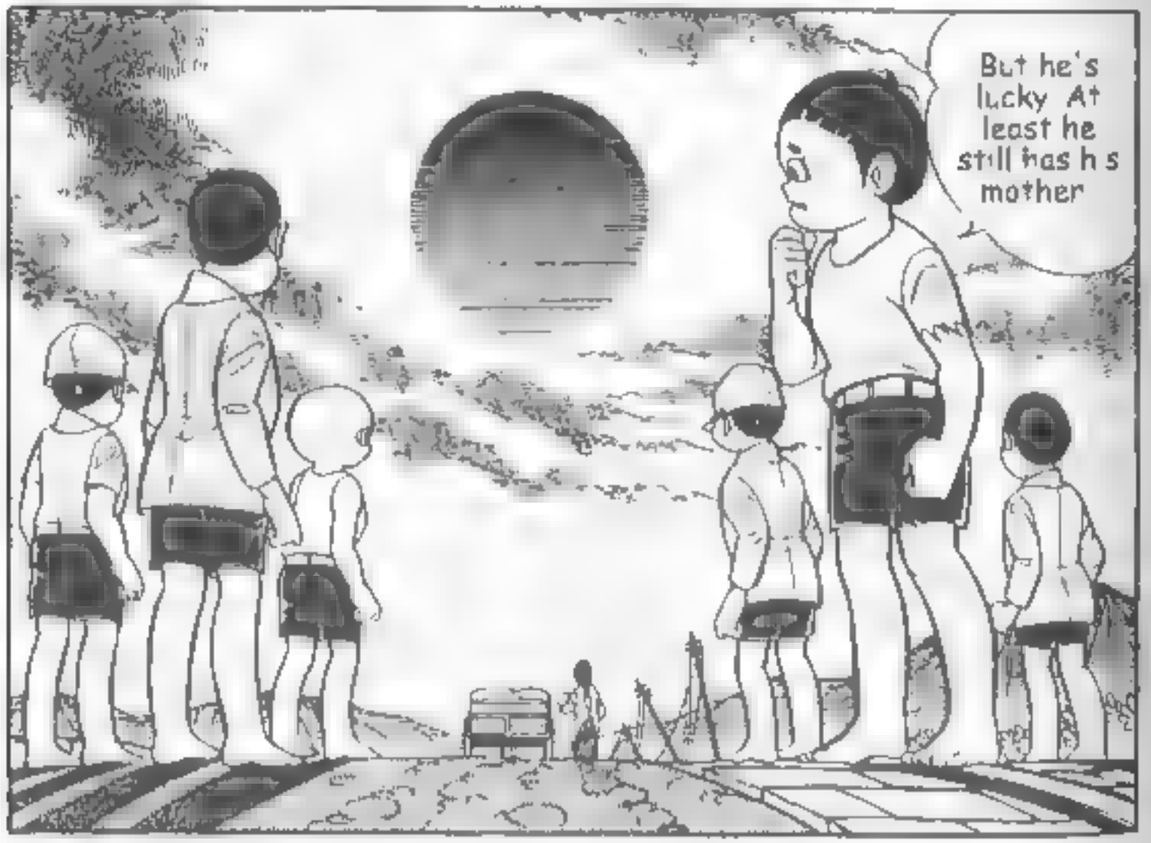
Don t worry about us! We'll be f ne!

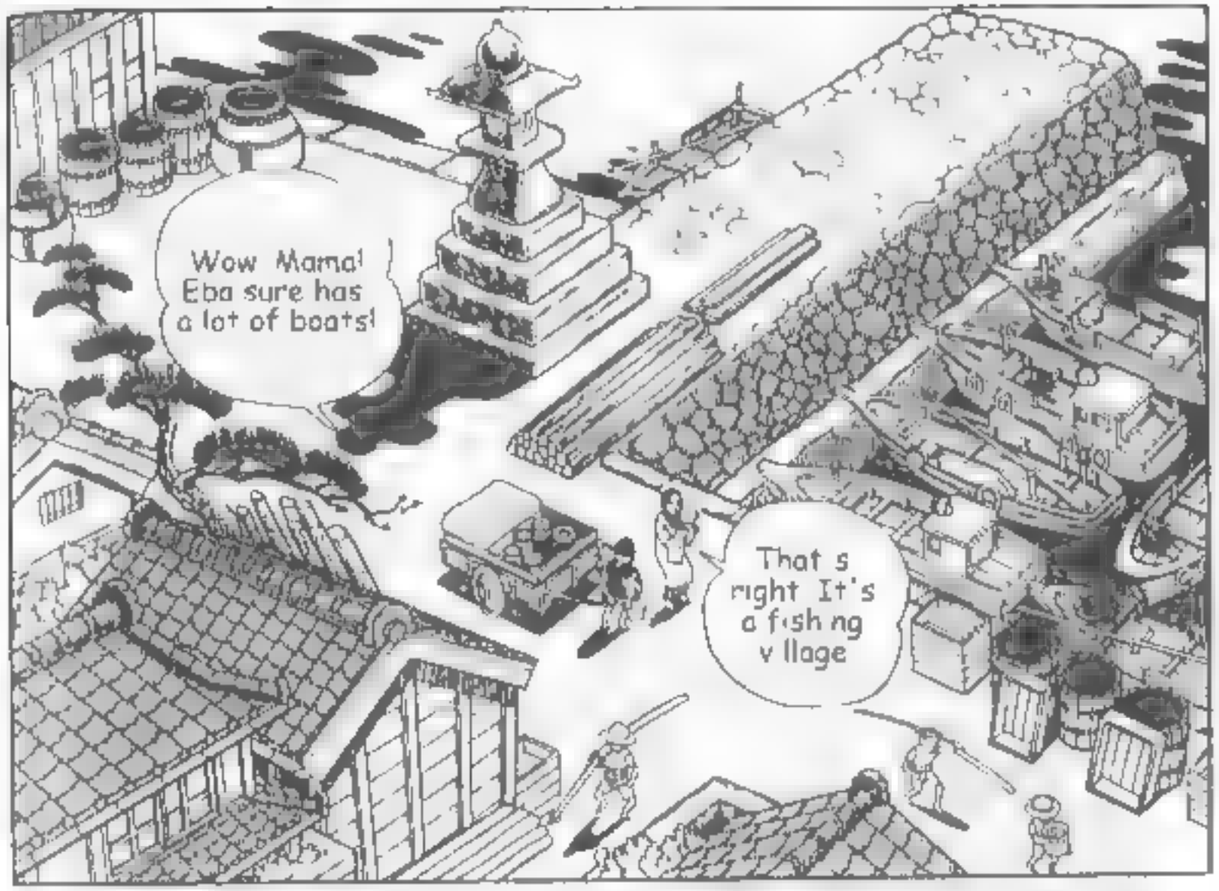
RATTLE RATTLE

The bones are rattling in the bucket It sounds like they re crying



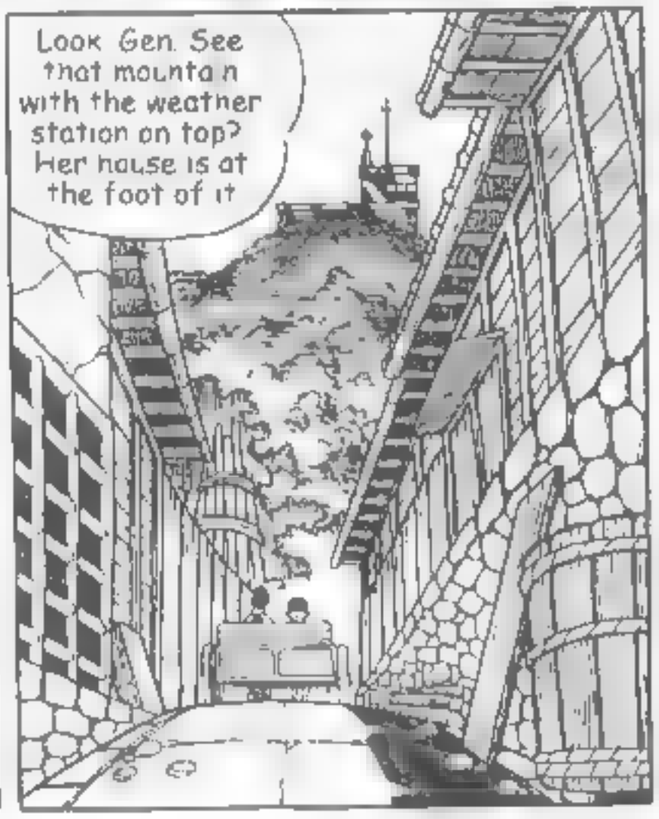
So that's why he didn't say anyth ng He dug up Sh nji's bones
I guess we shouldn t nave been so mean to him
Y yeah ..


But he's lucky At least he still has h s mother

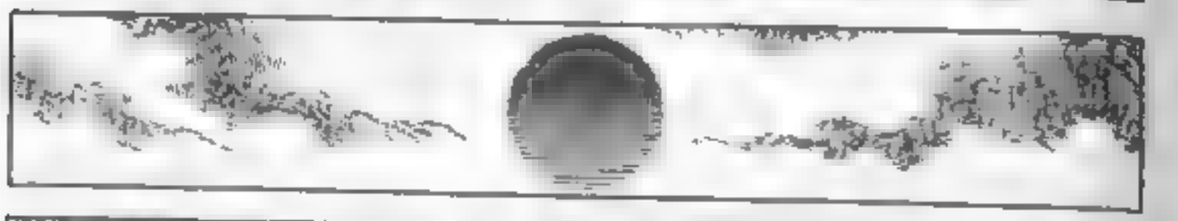

Wow Mama! Eba sure has a lot of boats!
That s right It's a fish ng v llage

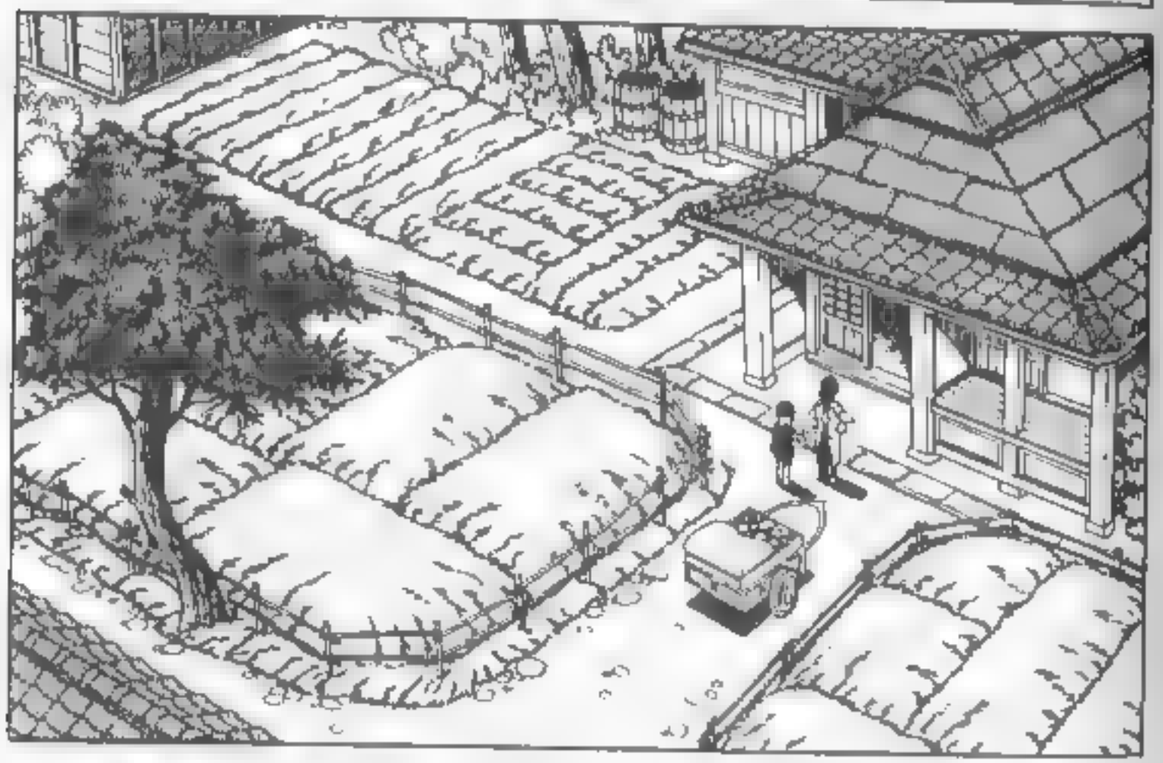
How much farther to Mrs Hayashi's house?
We're almost there.

How did you and Mrs Hayash become friends?
We grew up n the same ne gnborhood so we p ayed and went to schoo together


Look Gen See that mounta n with the weather station on top? Her house is at the foot of it

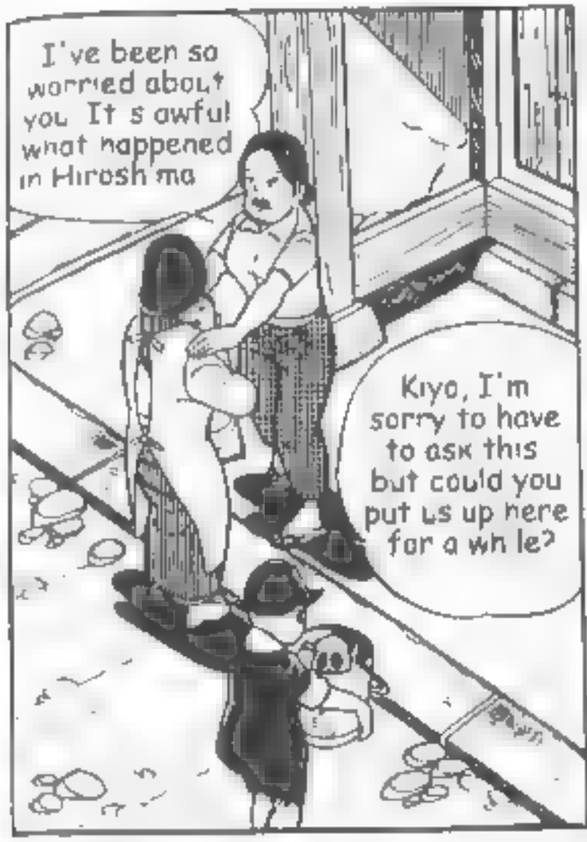
People around here are lucky The bomb only broke their windows and tilted the houses a bit
Yes The fires didn t reach here





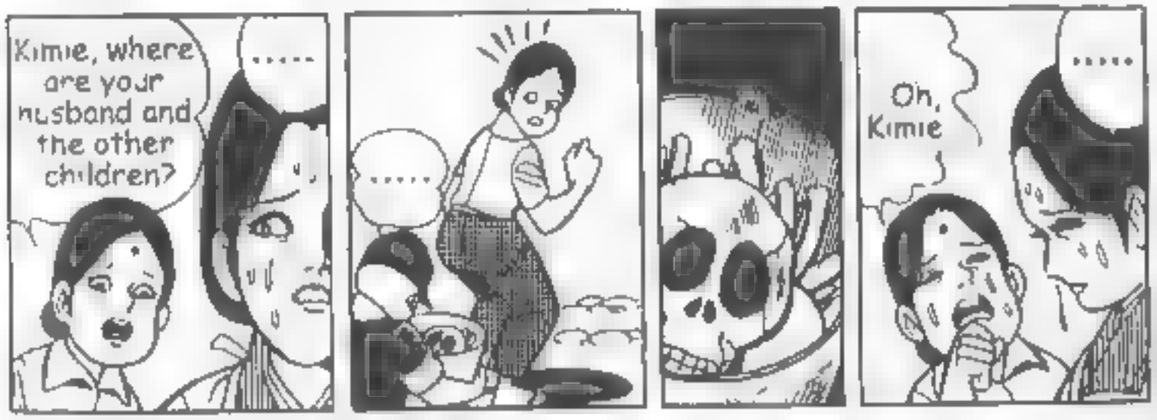
Why, it s Kimie
Kimie Nakaoka!

Y-you re safe! I'm so glad!
Kiyo !


I've been so worried about you It s awful what happened in Hirosh ma
Kiyo, I'm sorry to have to ask this but could you put us up here for a wh le?

For heaven s sake, don t apologize! You can stay as long as you like!
T-thank you, Kiyo!

Gen, this is Kiyo
Hi, nice to meet you, Ma am!
Hello, Gen


Kimie, where are your husband and the other children?
.....
.....
.....
Oh, Kimie

It it must have been terrible K mie But I know you ll survive
T-thank you Kiyo

Well, we can talk later Come on in and get some rest now

This s my mother-in-law and my ch ldren Tatsuo and Takeko.
Mother, this is my dear fr end K m e P ease let her stay with us for a while
I'm sorry to mpose on you like th s
WHACK!
K-yo! This is a house not a hotel
M-Mother
We must take good care of this house unt my son comes back from the war
It wou dn't do to let some stranger come into his house and d rty t now would it?!

But Mother my friend is in trouble. She needs our help
Hmph Fine, go ahead, suit yourself
.....
.....
Don't let Mother upset you, Kimie She s just a l ttle cranky
I m sorry to trouble you so, Kiyo.
Tatsuo, Takeko, th s is your new friend, Gen Be n ce to him, all right?
Uh sure.
Hey, did ja br ng us any gifts?
Gifts. ?
Yeah! You re supposed to bring a gift when you stay in someone's house!
Don t talk such nonsense! Gen's house burned down and they have noth ng left!
Huh! No gifts? What kind of dumb kid s ne?
.....
I'm. I'm sorry about that Kimie I'll ta k to them later P ease don t pay them any mind

Well you must be hungry I'll go fix dinner, so why don't you get a little rest

Thank you Kiyo

...

Mama They don't like us, do they

But we have nowhere to go We have no choice but to stay here for a while

We'll repay them for their kindness later, somehow

I know Gen

Gen, how long has it been since we last sat on nice tatami mats?

I love the smell of tatami

It's like a dream

Hmph!

Sign Prevent Fires

It's not much but please go ahead and eat

Thank you

Gen, say thank you before you start!

Gulp! Thank you! Oh boy!

What's going on Mom? I don't have as much rice as usual

Me either

Everybody has the same amount, so don't complain I'll steam some potatoes for you later

No! I want more rice!!

We don't have much rice! You know that!

More! More

You gave our rice to them THAT S why we have less!

Give me back my rice!

.....

....

Hush your mouth You should know better at your age!

Waahn! She hit me!

You d dn't have to hit him, Kiyo He s on y saying what s true

Here Kiyo G ve this to Tatsuo I don't need it

I I'm sorry, K mie

My children are very spoiled P ease, just ignore them and go ahead and eat

No, t s our fault for impos ng on you.

That g rl gives me the creeps, staring at my rice ke that

Huh! I'd better eat t fast

Thank you, Ma am!

BWAAH!

W what s wrong, Takeko?

Wah! He ate my rice!

That s enough, Takeko!

Boo hoo hoo

.....

....

.....

Mama I don't want to stay here

Be pat ent Gen Th s isn t easy for them, either

No matter what happens, you must behave yourself Promise me, Gen?

Y-yes, Mama

WAHI WAHI
There, there Are you hungry?
WAHI WAHI
Here you are
SLURP
I'm sorry but your mother has no milk You'll have to be content with this rice broth
Hey Mama, et s choose a name for her!
We should shouldn't we What would be a good name?
I want her to have a name that w ll bring her love and happ ness
So you mean you want her to have lots of friends?
Hmm
How about Tomoko, Mama? Tomo means fr end so that should br ng her lots of friends
Tomoko
That's a f ne name, Gen. Let's call her Tomoko
Yeah

Grow up soon so you can he p your mother Tomoko!
GOO GOO
Heh heh From today you re Tomoko Nakaoka!
I'm the one who named you Good name, huh? How do you like it?
Grow up qu ck so we can p ay together, Tomoko
Whoopee-do!
Gen be carefu
I have to go wash her diapers now
YAHOO!
Look at them, acting like this is their own house
They make me mad!
And as long as they stay here they're gonna keep eat ng our rice, Takeko
Yeah I don't ike that
We've got to get rid of them some-how
That s right, throw 'em out!
Grand-ma

I don't care if she s Kiyo's best fr end th s s no time to worry about others We don't even have enough food for ourselves We should kick em out

Tatsuo, Takeko you have my permission to make life so miserab e for them they have no choice but to move out!

Y-yes Ma'am

Leave it to us Grand ma

Heh heh

Hey you

What?

BIFF!

Take your hat off when you're in our house

.....

Hey look Takeko! He s bald! Haw haw

Tee hee! Look at that He's reai y reai.ly bald!

One He's bald he s bald on top!

Two He s bald his head will rot! Three! He's bald, as bald can be Four! He s bald, for a l to see

Five! He's bald his head s all skin! S xl He s bald his hair grows in!

Seven! He's bald, just look, you i know! Eight He s bald his head shines so! Nine He's bald his head got fried

Ten! He s bald, on every s de!

WHAP WHAP WHAP

HAW HAW! HEE HEE!

What's this baby s name?

T Tomoko

Let me ho d her

N-no! You can t, she was just born!

Hmph! St ngy stinker! Well, I don't care She s got a face ike a monkey!

.....

Why, that little How dare she cal Tomoko a

Nyah! Nyah!
Monkey face!
Monkey face!
.....

PINCH!

WAAH!

WAH!
WAH!

Uh oh
she's
cry ng

Hey you
what d d
you do to
her?!

WAH
WAH

WAH
WAH

No-
thing

Who-!

You little rat
You pinched
her!

Look, Tatsuo!
Ba dy's getting
mad! His whole
head is turning
red as a beet!

How haw!
Look at that!
Go ahead,
get madder,
Baldy!

Why
you-!

Urk!

POW!

I'll
show
you!

WHAM!

Make
fun of
me, w
you?

Unh!

BONK!

KATHUNK!

WAAHH!

Boo
Hoo
Hoo!

TROMP
TROMP

Tatsuo,
Takeko!
What s
the
matter?

Waah! That
baldy h t us,
Grandma!

Grrr

You nasty brat!

Hit my precious grandchildren will you?

Get down on your knees and apologize!

No They're the ones who were bad

How dare you talk back to me, you little troublemaker!

Say you're sorry

WHACK!

Ow!

Grrr

Don't look at me like that! Say you're sorry Now!

WHACK!

Gen! What happened?

Moan

You've done a poor job raising that child He hit my grandchildren and won't even say he's sorry

I can't have a brat like him in this house You'll have to leave!

Gen hurry up and apologize!

N. No!

It wasn't my fault They pinched Tomoko and made fun of me

Never mind Just say you're sorry!

Why do I have to say I'm sorry, Mama?!

I didn't do anything wrong!

SLAP

I don't care Say you're sorry

N-No

SLAP

Say you're sorry!

Say you're sorry Now!

SLAP! SLAP!

Gen you promised me didn't you? That you'd behave, no matter what

Owww

Please forgive him. Please

Shut up! I won't forgive him till he apologizes himself!

I'm so sorry for what he's done. Please accept my apology.

I don't want YOUR apology!

.....

Gen, please! Don't make it any harder for me.

All right. I'll apologize, Mama.

I'm, I'm sorry. I was wrong. Please forgive me.

Don't you ever hit Tatsuo or Takeko again, or I'll throw you out. Hear me?

Ya hear her, Baldy?

Good. You should have said that at the beginning.

Yaah! Baldy, Baldy, Baldy!

.....

SOB

Sob, Sob

Gen... You were very strong. Thank you.

I know it wasn't your fault, Gen. I know that.

If our home hadn't been destroyed by the bomb, you wouldn't have to go through this. It's hard to have to depend on the kindness of strangers.

.....

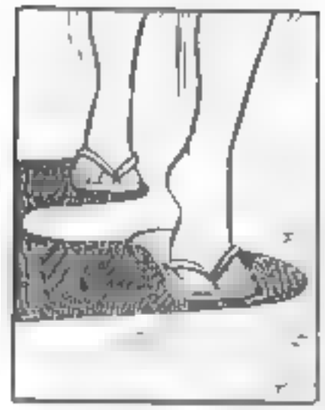
Good work, children. Keep giving them a hard time so they'll leave soon.

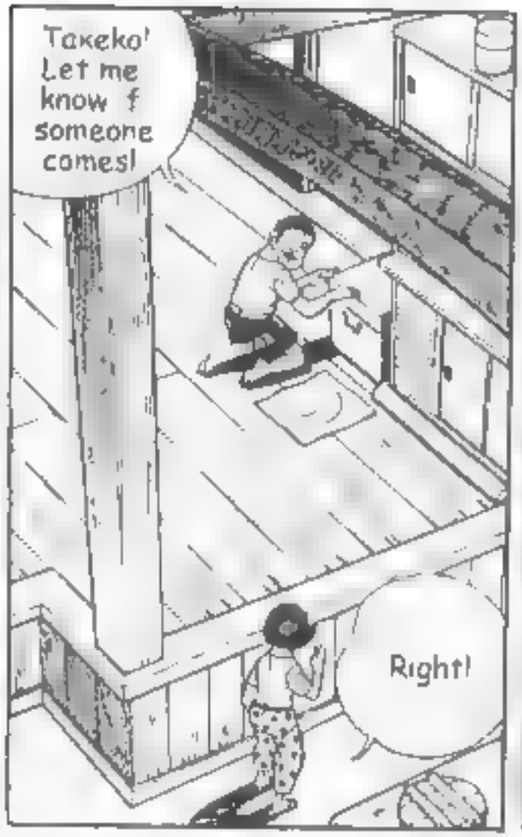
T-that hurt, Grandma.

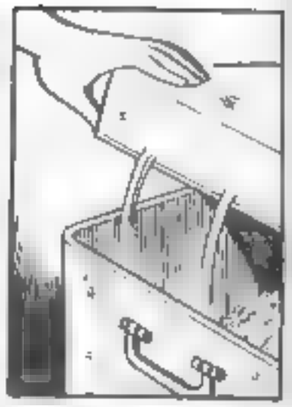
If it hurt, then you should pay him back for it!

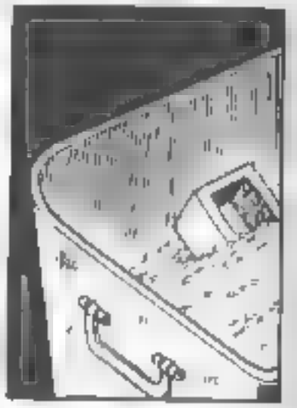
Y-yeah.

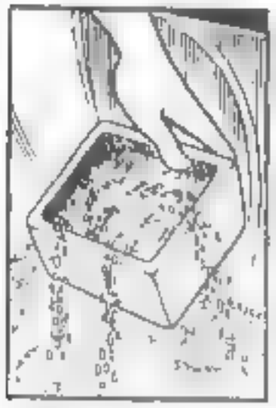
Once again, Gen learned how cruel the world can be and how hard it is to survive.

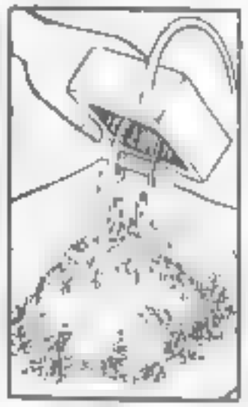



Takeko! Let me know if someone comes!
Right!

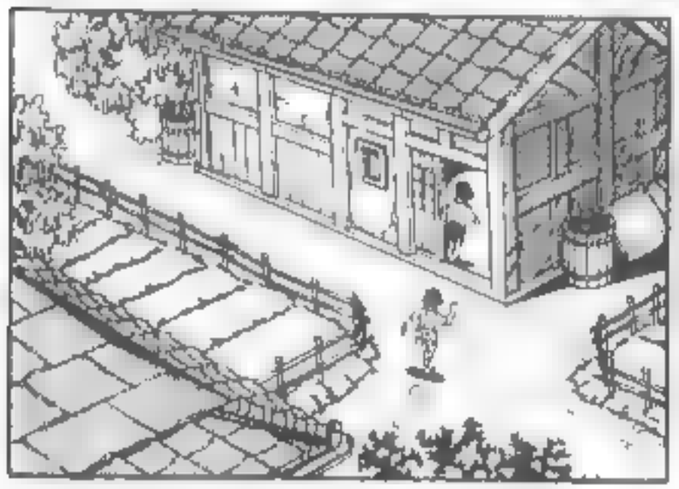








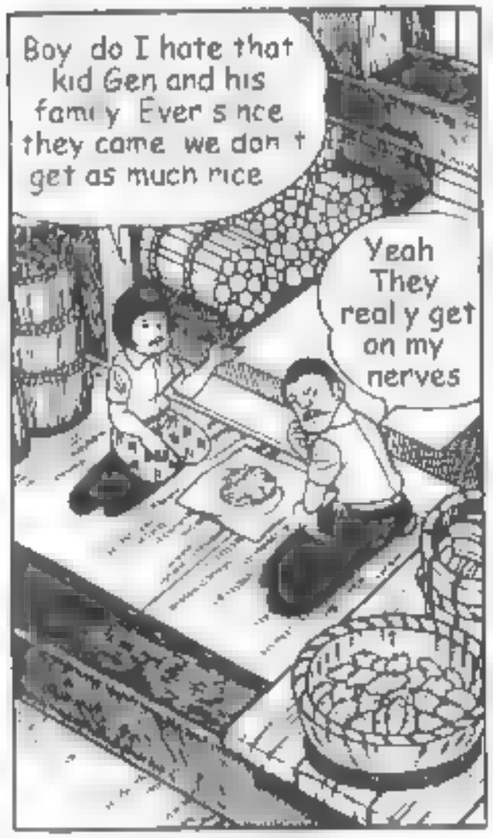
I got the rice Let's go!
Good!



Hurry up and give me some Hee hee
Hey, take it easy!

Don't ever let Mom or Grandma find out about this OK?
We'll be in real trouble if they find out we're stealing rice
I know!

Sure tastes good huh, Takeko
CRUNCH CRUNCH
CRUNCH CRUNCH
Yeah


Boy do I hate that kid Gen and his family Ever since they came we don't get as much rice
Yeah They really get on my nerves

Waahh! Waahh!
You're hungry, aren't you Tomoko? Just a minute I'll make you some more rice broth

Hey now, Tomoko! Don't cry!
WAH! WAH!

There isn't much left of the rice Gen brought from Ninoshima If I'm not careful I'll have nothing to feed her

....

Gen ook after Tomako for a bit, will you?

Sure!

Hmph! The nerve, eating our precious rice while they keep their own hidden away

What a sneak that woman is

And where did they get that rice, anyway? I wonder

.....

Grumble Grumble.

That s odd

What's wrong, Kiyo?

Some of our rice is gone I wonder who took it

W what?!

I know

Kiyo, you've let a terrible thief into our house.

Are. are you saying Kimie stole it..?

I just saw her! I saw Kimie with some rice she'd hidden away!

Kiyo I want to make some rice broth for Tomako Can I use the stove?

S-sure Kimie.

I won't let her get away with this

There must be some mistake, Mother

She DOES have rice

Did you see that Kiyo? How could she have rice if her house burned down? She must have stolen it.

.....

I can't have a thief like that in my house. I'm going to throw her out!

.....

Kimie where did you get that rice?

This? Gen got it in N'oshima and brought it back for Tomako

I know I should've given it to you. but I need it to feed Tomoko Please forgive me

I ll work to repay you for all you ve g ven us. I promise P ease, just g ve me a little time

You've got a lot of nerve ta king l ke that, you thief

T th ef?

You ve been stealing our r ce, haven t you! Adm t t!

This th s isn't your rice I m not a thief

It won't do you any good to deny t! I'm taking you to the police

W what are you saying?!

Come on, let s go!

K Kiyo I didn't stea your r ce!

Please be eve me, Kiyo

.....

Ah!

WHACK

Shut up you barefaced liar!

W-what are you doing?

Mama. !

Urk

Get away from her you o d hag!

How dare you hit my mother

and call her a thief?

I earned that r ce myse f. If you don t be eve me, go to Ninoshima and ask!

Shut up you brat You're both shame ess ars!

You o d witch! Where's your proof that we sta e anything?!

Some of our r ce is m ss ng! What more proof do I need?

Who else n th s house would steal it?!

Let s go! We ll have the police look nto th s!

Don't go, Mama! You haven't taken any- th ng

It's all right, Gen. The police w ll nvestigate and find that I didn't do anything

Huh She s got some nerve

Gen g ve Tomoko her rice broth wh e I m gone

M- Mama

Hurry up now

...

Hen hen. Th s s getting nterest ng

Grandma s really giving 'em a hard time now!

D-damn them all.

I can't stand it, Tomoko, I can t stand it

Yaan! Rice thief! Rice thief!

Y-you ll be sorry for th s .

Hey ook!

What s up?

O d Mrs Hayash caught a r ce thief!

She ooks harmless enough Must be a rea witch!

.....

.....

"I K.m.e Nakaoka stole rice from the Hayash family I promise never to steal anything aga n. Please forgive me."

Now sign your name and put your thumb- pr.nt here

No

You're a stubborn woman Mrs Hayashi here says she won't press charges if you just s gn this apology Why do you keep insist ng you didn't steal?

Because I d dn't Why do I have to adm t to a crime that I d dn't commit?

I haven't stolen any rice! Why do you assume that I did? Why don't you investigate?

Watch your tongue, woman!

I'm a busy man!

BANG

The citizens of Eba don't steal! We've had a lot of theft here only since you homeless beggars started pouring in from Hirosh ma

Officer put this woman in jail

Grr

I haven't stolen anything

What more do I have to say? Do you want to be locked up?!

I didn't do anything to be jailed

Once I put you in jail you won't get out for some time. You have a child and a baby, don't you? They're probably crying right now, waiting for you

WAHI WAHI WAHI

Sob.

Here! Sign the apology!

G-Gen. I know it's wrong but I must sign. I can't leave you and Tomoko alone.

So you finally admit to your crime eh?

Ah

Nakaoka

Kime

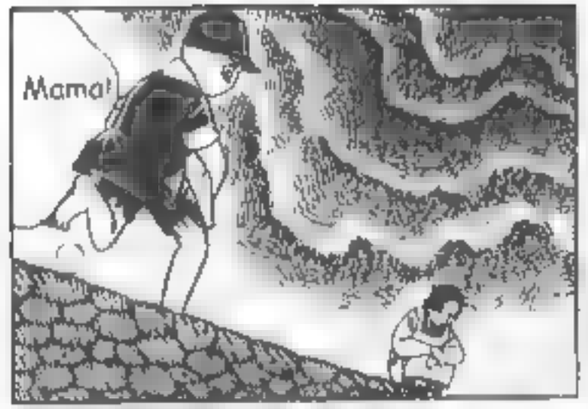
Is this good enough, Mrs Hayashi?

I'd rather see her in jail, but she's a close friend of my daughter-in-law's.

Al right You may go now, but don t ever stea r ce again!
.....

Heh heh Now tney ll HAVE to eave!

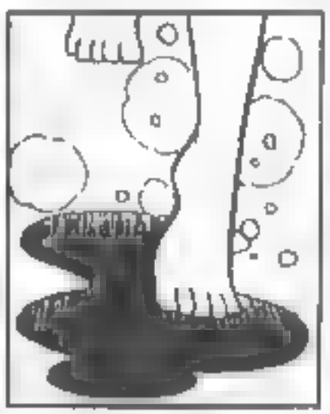
Yaah! Th ef!
Thief Th.ef


Mama!

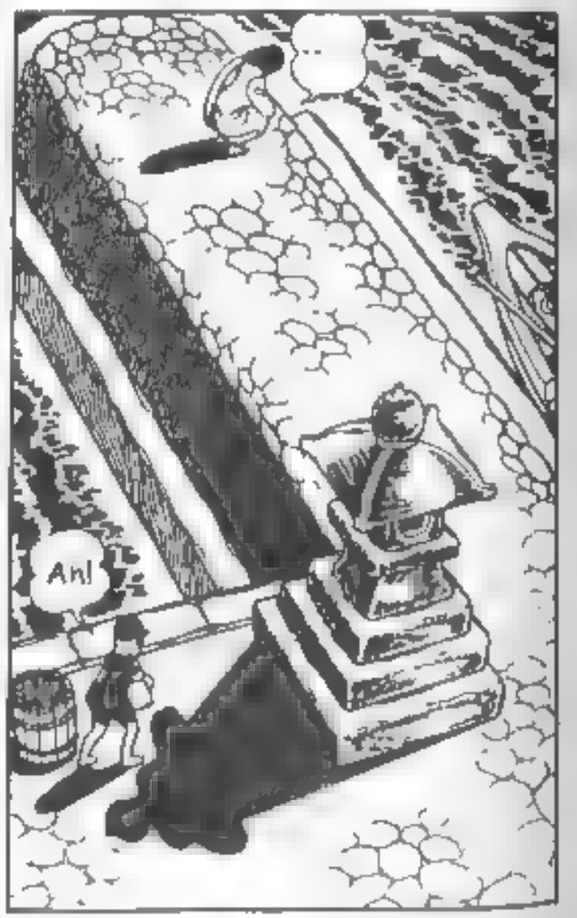
Pant pant What are you doing here Mama?
I've been looking a l over for you!

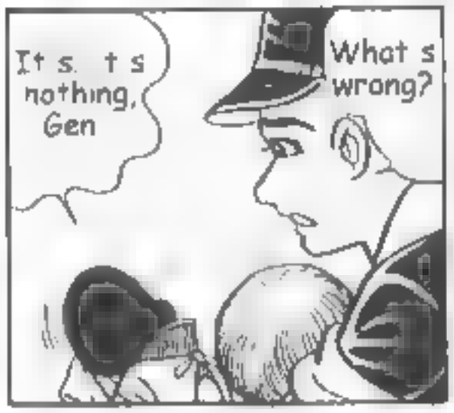
W-why are you cry.ng, Mama?

RUMBLE



Huff puff

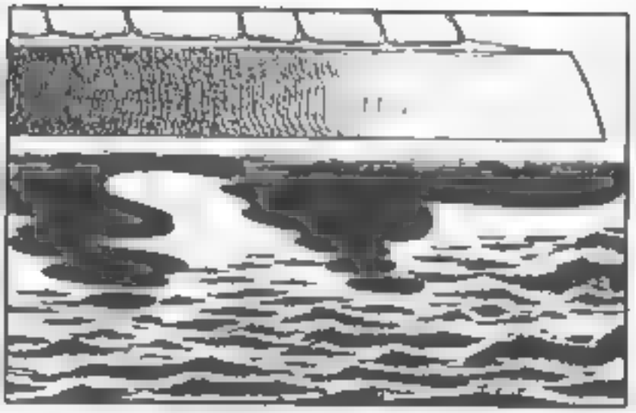

Ah!


It s. t s nothing, Gen
What s wrong?

The police proved you didn t steal the r.ce d dn't they?
.....

Gen That atomic bomb d dn't just make it hell for the dying but for the liv ng too If only that bomb hadn t fallen

your mother wou dn't have to endure this disgrace
W- what happened?!



.....
M-Mama! You didn't!!

How could you Mama?! How could you let them ca l you a thief? We didn't steal the r rice!
I had no choice If I went to ja l, what would become of you and Tomako...?

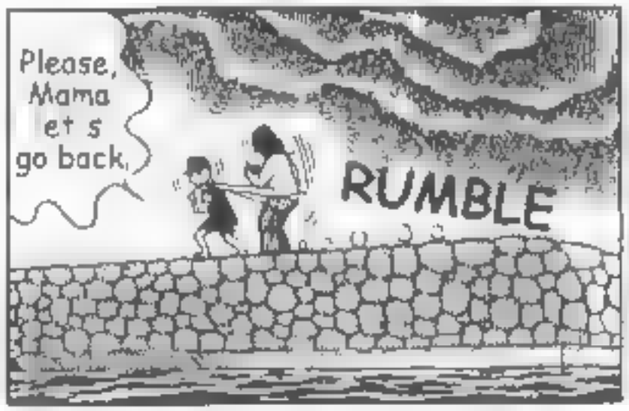
Let's not go back to that house, Gen. Let's go somewhere else.
NO! We can't leave now Not with them cal ng you a thief!

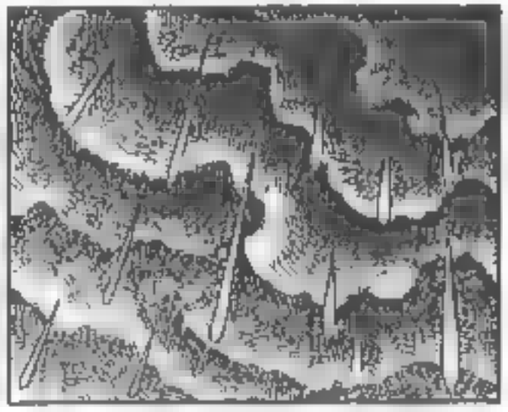
We've got to go back We've got to prove to them you re not a th ef I'll f nd out who really stole the rice!

No, Gen, no! I can't bear to go back there.
Don't be a fool Mama! You can't let them get away w th that!

Come on, Mama! Let's go back Don't give n to them!
Sob Sob

My mother's not a thief
She s not!


Please, Mama et s go back.
RUMBLE



Sleep, my baby sleep
Of all the nerve! She comes right back here as if nothing happened!

Kiyo, go tell her they have to leave
I-I can t say that to my fr end

Hmph! Well if you can't, I wil

I want you to leave here at once We can t have a thief staying in our house!

.....

When I ve proved I m not a thief, I ll leave But I won t shame myself any further

So you still insist you didn t steal anything, eh? You brazen creature

You leave me no choice I ll have the police come take you away

.....

There's no one around Tatsuo!

Good Keep an eye out!

Heh heh Once I start eating rice, I can t stop!

I got another bag full Takeko Let's go!

Goody

THIEVES!

Thieves! Thieves! Everybody come quick

CLANG! CLANG!

Waah! I can t get up !

Hah! I figured it was you two!

Look you old hag These are your rice thieves!

Now you know we didn't do it

Whimper

Urk

Gasp

Tatsuo! Takeko!

I'm...I'm sorry, M-Mom...

Old hag! Say you're sorry for calling my mother a thief!

Go to the police and tell them you were wrong!

Shut up! If you hadn't come to our house, this wouldn't have happened! You're the ones who should apologize!

Why, you... you ugly old witch...

Urk! W-what are you d-doing...

All you've done is give my mother a hard time... I'll show you!

GASP

Stop, Gen!

Let me go, Mama!

You proved that we're not thieves. That's enough, Gen.

Mrs. Hayashi is right. If we hadn't come here, this would never have happened. You mustn't blame her, Gen.

.....

Now that you've proved I'm not a thief, I can leave this house with pride, Gen. Thank you.

Grr...

Goodbye, Kiyo. Please forgive us for causing you so much trouble...

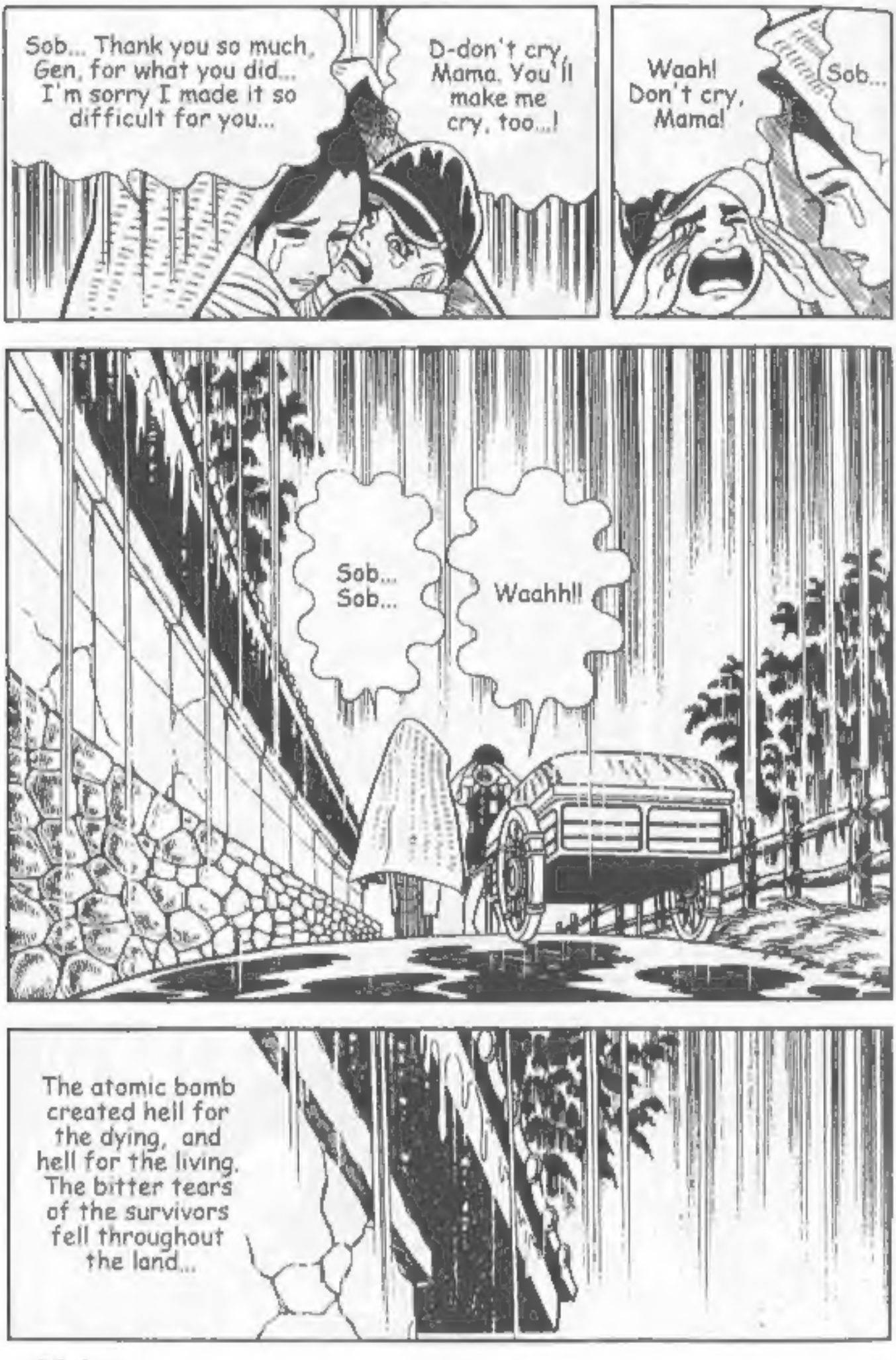
I...I'm so sorry, Kimie...

♪ Rain, rain, let it storm
'Cause I'm a happy fella
Rain, rain, I'm safe and warm
Under Mom's umbrella ♪

.....

Gen...

What, Mama?


Sob... Thank you so much, Gen, for what you did... I'm sorry I made it so difficult for you...
D-don't cry, Mama. You'll make me cry, too...!
Waah! Don't cry, Mama!
Sob...
Sob... Sob...
Waahh!!
The atomic bomb created hell for the dying, and hell for the living. The bitter tears of the survivors fell throughout the land...

About Project Gen

Namie Asazuma
Coordinator, Project Gen

In the pages of *Barefoot Gen*, Keiji Nakazawa brings to life a tragedy unlike any that had ever befallen the human race before. He does not simply depict the destructive horror of nuclear weapons, but tells of the cruel fate they visited upon victims and survivors in the years to come. Yet Gen, the young hero of this story, somehow manages to overcome one hardship after another, always with courage and humor. *Barefoot Gen's* tale of hope and human triumph in the face of nuclear holocaust has inspired volunteer translators around the world, as well as people working in a variety of other media. Over the years *Gen* has been made into a three-part live-action film, a feature-length animation film, an opera, and a musical.

The first effort to translate *Barefoot Gen* from the original Japanese into other languages began in 1976, when Japanese peace activists Masahiro Oshima and Yukio Aki walked across the United States as part of that year's Transcontinental Walk for Peace and Social Justice. Their fellow walkers frequently asked them about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and one of them happened to have a copy of *Hadashi no Gen* in his backpack. The Americans on the walk, astonished that an atomic bomb survivor had written about it in cartoon form, urged their Japanese friends to translate it into English. Upon returning to Japan, Oshima and Aki founded Project Gen, a non-profit, all-volunteer group of young Japanese and Americans living in Tokyo, to do just that. Project Gen went on to translate the first four volumes of *Barefoot Gen* into English. One or more of these volumes have also been published in French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Swedish, Norwegian, Indonesian, Tagalog, and Esperanto.

By the 1990s Project Gen was no longer active. In the meantime, author Keiji Nakazawa had gone on to complete ten volumes of *Gen*, and expressed his wish to see the entire story made available to non-Japanese readers. Parts of the first four volumes had also been abridged in translation. A new generation of volunteers responded by reviving Project Gen and producing a new, complete and unabridged translation of the entire Gen series.

The second incarnation of Project Gen got its start in Moscow in 1994, when a Japanese student, Minako Tanabe, launched "Project Gen in Russia" to translate *Gen* into Russian. After pub-

lishing the first three volumes in Moscow, the project relocated to Kanazawa, Japan, where volunteers Yulia Tachino and Namie Asazuma had become acquainted with *Gen* while translating a story about Hiroshima into Russian. The Kanazawa volunteers, together with Takako Kanekura in Russia, completed Russian volumes 4 through 10 between 1999 and 2001.

In the spring of 2000, the Kanazawa group formally established a new Project Gen in Japan. Nine volunteers spent the next three years translating all ten volumes of *Gen* into English. The translators are Kazuko Futakuchi, Michael Gordon, Kyoko Honda, Yukari Kimura, Nobutoshi Kohara, Kiyoko Nishita, George Stenson, Michiko Tanaka, and Kazuko Yamada.

In 2002, author Keiji Nakazawa put the Kanazawa team in contact with Alan Gleason, a member of the first Project Gen, who introduced them to Last Gasp of San Francisco, publisher of the original English translation of *Gen*. Last Gasp agreed to publish the new, unabridged translation of all ten volumes, of which this book is one.

In the hope that humanity will never repeat the terrible tragedy of the atomic bombing, the volunteers of Project Gen want children and adults all over the world to hear Gen's story. Through translations like this one, we want to help Gen speak to people in different countries in their own languages. Our prayer is that *Barefoot Gen* will contribute in some small way to the abolition of nuclear weapons before this new century is over.

Write to Project Gen c/o Asazuma, Nagasaka 3-10-20, Kanazawa 921-8112, Japan

Keiji Nakazawa lives with his wife in the suburbs of Tokyo, and remains actively involved in the work of the Project Gen volunteers. Now retired from cartooning, his most recent project was a live action film he wrote and directed about young people growing up in postwar Hiroshima. He is currently working on another film scenario.